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### THE BRITISH PHARMACOPÆIA, 1898.

BY carefully organising our plans in advance, we were able to send off on Wednesday morning all the Pharmacopœias, orders for which had been received up to Monday morning. We believe we took from the publishers almost as many Pharmacopœias as all the rest of the drug-trade put together.

Several hundreds of orders have been received since Monday, and these have been got off with the utmost expedition.

This statement does not apply to the interleaved copies which have been ordered from us. We were not satisfied to supply our friends with the interleaved copies as prepared by the publishers, and Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co. very kindly consented to bind a quantity specially for us with a superior interleaved paper, ruled. These will be ready and will go away in a day or two.

We are still prepared to receive orders for the Pharmacopœias, the ordinary edition at 8s., the interleaved copies at 13s., all post free. We shall continue to send with these copies of our pamphlet giving a reprint of our review of the Pharmacopœia as long as we have any of them in stock; but future purchasers cannot rely on getting these, as it will not pay us to reproduce them.

We wish to make it clear that we can only supply Pharmacopœias against actual remittances.

Reprints of our review of the Pharmacopœia (for distribution among medical men) can still be obtained at 3s. 6d. per dozen or 1l. 2s. 6d. per hundred.

### AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRADE.

IN view of the early inauguration of preferential duties in favour of the mother country's goods imported into Canada, the issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of May 28 will give manufacturing and wholesale houses in this country an excellent opportunity of introducing their goods to Canadian buyers. The issue of that date will be specially circulated in Canada and the United States. Firms who wish to take advantage of our American and Canadian issue should write to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.



DETAILS of the will of the late Sir Richard Quain are given on p. 805.

IPECACUANHA has again advanced in price for reasons stated on p. 797.

PROFESSOR DEWAR has succeeded in liquefying hydrogen and helium (p. 799).

MR. J. C. UMLEY severely criticises the syrups of the Pharmacopœia in an article on p. 794.

WE give a view of the new drug-sale room at the London Commercial Sale-rooms, Mincing Lane (p. 808).

THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS for April (p. 806) are not encouraging. We comment upon them on p. 798.

THE disposal of "a stock of expensive drugs of a well-known firm giving up this department" is reported on p. 801.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE is likely to establish a City branch in connection with its commercial news room (p. 799).

THE P.A.T.A. EXECUTIVE are trying to get provincial Associations to work in concert for the promotion of their objects (p. 790).

THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW B.P. on Wednesday raises points for consideration by the drug-trade, which we refer to on p. 796.

A CHEMIST who confused permanganate-of-potash crystals with carbolic-acid crystals gave evidence at an inquest at Southport (p. 783).

OUR rhymers have not shown much talent in their efforts to forecast the Council election in verse. We print a few of their efforts on p. 800.

WE note the complaints of nine chemists who have sent to us details of their unsatisfactory transactions with the South of England Printing and Publishing Company (p. 797).

THE DRUG-MARKETS have been quiet this week Ipecac, opium, and mercury have advanced, and quinine is dearer in manufacturers', but cheaper in second hands (p. 806).

IN A LENGTHY LETTER to the Highland Agricultural Society, Mr. Cross, M.P., justifies his amendments to the Pharmacy Bill, and the directors of the Society support him (p. 784).

DR. TANNER, M.P., taking "a sincere interest" in the Pharmacy Bill, demolished its chance of getting through Committee in the House of Commons on Monday last (p. 803).

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY attended the annual dinner of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association, and spoke hopefully of pharmaceutical prospects (p. 789).

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Chemists' Assistants Association last Thursday revealed that the financial condition was satisfactory. We give the balance-sheet at the end of our report (p. 791).

THERE were one or two lively altercations in the Irish Pharmaceutical Council reported on p. 787. Company-pharmacy seems to be the bone of contention. The British Society are offering the Irish Council their best wishes in the efforts of the latter to get the company question raised in the House of Lords (p. 788).

A CHEMIST'S unfortunate speculation in Jubilee seats, the sale of coca wine to a publican, 50/- damages against Messrs. Goodman (the advertising dentists) for bad work at their Cardiff branch, a medicine-stamp case in Yorkshire, and actions against an Irish druggist for losses alleged to be occasioned by his supplying a poisonous sheep-dip, are among the legal cases reported (pp. 792-3).



*Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.*

#### Council Election Circulars.

A circular has been issued urging that votes may be given for Mr. John Johnston, Aherdeen, and Mr. David Storrar, Kirkcaldy, so that the usual two Scottish representatives may be kept on the Council. Mr. Johnston is described as "the principal of one of the largest drug-businesses in the city of Aberdeen," and Mr. Storrar as "a typical representative of provincial pharmacy." This address is signed by Alexander Noble, Edinburgh; William L. Currie, Glasgow; Charles Kerr, Dundee; and Alexander Strachan, Aberdeen.

Another circular calls attention to the circumstance that out of six members of the Council residing in London, no fewer than five have to seek re-election. This is an exact repetition of what occurred last year, and as the principal part of the detail work of the Council is, and must be, done by committees, and that duty cannot be conveniently or effectively undertaken by members residing at a distance from London, however much they may be prepared to sacrifice time and personal convenience to the service of the Society, members are asked to include Messrs. Allen, Hills, Martindale, Savory, and Warren among those for whom they vote. This appeal is signed by C. B. Bell, Hull; H. C. Birch, Norwood; Isaiah Bourdas, London; J. W. Bowen, London; F. W. Branson, Leeds; G. E. Bridge, Bournemouth; W. B. Dyson, London; J. L. Ewing, Edinburgh; H. Kemp, Manchester; J. H. Lake, Exeter; J. H. Mathews, London; R. H. Parker, London; T. H. Powell, London; R. Reynolds, Leeds; J. Smith, Liverpool; E. B. Stamp, London.

#### Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society.

The last general meeting of the present session was held on May 4, Mr. G. Squire (President) in the chair. Mr. C. O. Morrell delivered a lecture on "Histological Botany," in the course of which, speaking of the germination of the seed, he said he had sown thirty each of broad beans and oats, making thirty daily observations of their embryos, including the mounting of microscopic sections, which provided him with interesting lessons on vegetable structure. The lecture was illustrated with sixty lantern-slides.

#### Drugs in Clerkenwell.

The public analyst of Clerkenwell, Mr. J. K. Colwell, reports that the inspectors have been amongst the chemists, but have found the samples correct. Amongst the articles submitted were citrate of magnesia, sulphate of quinine, tincture of opium, and compound tincture of camphor.

#### All Genuine.

Mr. A. Ekins, analyst to Hertfordshire County Council, reports that amongst the forty-two samples analysed by him during the past quarter were one of paregoric, one of precipitated sulphur, and two of ginger. All were found to be genuine.

#### "Spirit of Nitre" in the Isle of Wight.

In his quarterly report to the Isle of Wight Council on the Sale of Food and Drugs Act the public analyst (Mr. Otto Hehner) states that among the samples examined by him were nine of spirit of nitre. These samples, he says, were purchased on terms which were too vague. The term "spirit of nitre" has now no legal existence. Years ago the Pharmacopoeia included spirit of nitre, but at present the corresponding article was termed "Spirit of nitrous ether." If the latter article was asked for the Pharmacopoeia

preparation must be supplied, while under the name "Spirit of nitre," as a rule, feebler fluids were sold, and no action could be taken.

#### Adulteration in Durham County.

At the quarterly meeting of the Durham County Council, on May 4, the county analyst (Mr. W. F. K. Stock, F.C.S., of Darlington) presented his report on adulteration in the county. Out of 202 samples analysed during the quarter, 190 were genuine, one doubtful, and eleven adulterated. The percentage of adulteration was 5.44 compared with 2.57 for the previous quarter. As regarded drugs, a sample of tincture of iodine was found to be 70 per cent. deficient in potassium iodide, and prosecution in the case was pending. Samples of cassia were obtained containing 7 per cent. of extraneous mineral matter, chiefly sand, which was an inexcusable addition, as the conditions under which the original bark was prepared for the market would not account for even 1 per cent. of sand.

#### Report of West Riding County Analyst.

Mr. A. H. Allen, in his quarterly report to the West Riding County Council, states that he received, analysed and reported on during the past three months 592 samples, of which 559 were received from the inspectors, and 33 from local authorities. These included 11 samples of ground ginger, of which 9 were genuine and 2 suspicious. Of the 9 samples of glycerine, 8 were satisfactory and one contained 2 per cent. of glucose syrup. Four out of five samples of compound liquorice-powder were in accordance with the B.P., and one was practically destitute of sulphur, costing the vendor a fine of 5s. and costs. Four samples of sweet spirit of nitre were genuine, and one contained slight excess of water and was almost destitute of nitrous ether. The offender was cautioned by the Magistrates. One sample of tincture of rhubarb out of five was of inferior quality, as was one sample out of two of paregoric. Two samples out of three submitted of cream of tartar were of inferior quality, while the only sample of milk of sulphur contained 63 per cent. of calcium sulphate.

#### British Medical Association.

The Council of the British Medical Association have just completed the purchase of the freehold site upon which arc situated their premises at the corner of Agar Street and the Strand. The purchase-price was 79,000*l.*

#### She Took it for a Daisy.

At Chatham Police Court on May 9, Llewellyn Taylor, a girl, was charged with attempting to commit suicide by taking salts of lemon. The girl said she meant to take a Daisy powder. She was discharged.

#### Charge of Fraud.

At the Westminster Police Court, on May 6, Frederick Alan Macdonald, alias Pym, Pawson, Dugdale, &c., aged 32 years, a well-dressed man, described as a dispenser, and whose last address was Ducie Road, Manchester, was brought before Mr. Sheil, charged with endeavouring to obtain charitable contributions by fraud from the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P. After evidence for the prosecution had been given, the prisoner was remanded.

#### Explosion of a Still.

A Board of Trade inquiry was held last week, at Hull Town Hall, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a still which occurred at the works of Messrs. Major & Co. (Limited), chemical-manufacturers, Sulcoates, Hull. The explosion took place in December last, and five men were killed. After a searching inquiry, which lasted three days, the Court found that the explosion was due to over-pressure, consequent on the light oil having been admitted into the still at so high a temperature that it rapidly evaporated, thereby causing a sudden pressure, which the still, being fitted with no means of relief, could not resist.

#### The Chemist's Advice.

At an inquest held at Dudley on May 5, the mother of a child named Massey, aged 17 days, stated that the child had seemed to waste away, and as it had convulsions she took it

to the shop of Mr. Rowton, chemist and druggist, who, after looking at the child, said it had been convulsed. He made no charge, but advised her if the child lived till morning to get a dispensary note. She said she then asked "if the child died, would it be all right if he gave her a certificate?" and that Mr. Rowton said "it would if she paid him 2s." The child died two hours later. She then collected the money and took it to Mr. Rowton. It transpired that the child had been fed on gruel, and that improper feeding was the cause of death. The Coroner observed that probably the mother thought it was quite sufficient to take the child to a chemist. She was censured and told that she had had a very narrow escape of being committed to the assizes.

#### Patent Medicines Suspected.

At Darwen, on May 9, a coroner's inquest was held into the circumstance attending the death of Albert Johnston (33), who died very suddenly a day or two previously. Dr. Moir, who attended deceased for a few days before his death, said there was nothing particularly wrong with him, except that he was suffering from a small abscess that had formed in his gums, and from neuralgic pains in the face, and also headache. On the morning of his death he was told that Johnston was very much worse, and, proceeding to the young man's lodgings, he had only been there about five minutes when his patient expired. He had made a *post-mortem* examination of the body, and found the heart, lungs, brain, and other organs in a perfectly healthy condition. The contents of the stomach he had yet to examine. He had learned that the deceased man had been taking a considerable quantity of Clarke's blood-mixture and Woolley's headache-powders. Continuing, witness said the analysis of Dr. Stokes with regard to the blood-mixture went to prove that it contained iodide of potassium and several other harmless salts, but iodide of potassium was the chief ingredient. The headache-powders were composed chiefly of antifebrine, but the one that he had taken from the deceased man's bedroom he had not yet had time to analyse. The man died in a fit of a very suspicious nature; it was not an ordinary epileptic fit.

Annie Langan gave evidence to the effect that she had purchased three Woolley's headache-powders for the deceased man, and he had taken one in her presence. She had also procured for him a bottle of Clarke's blood-mixture and two "Daisy" headache-powders.

The inquest was adjourned until May 23, in order that the contents of the stomach might be examined.

#### An Old-fashioned Chemist.

At an inquest held at Southport, on May 4, on the death of an apprentice-baker who had committed suicide by taking carbolic acid, some rather peculiar evidence on pharmaceutical matters was given.

Dr. Ball, who was called to see deceased, said the carbolic acid he had taken was what was called "absolute"; it was obtained in crystals, and would only be legitimately dispensed by a chemist in a physician's prescription. The crystals which deceased had used, however, had been obtained in some other way, for it was easy to see a professional chemist had not dissolved them, as some crystalline particles remained undissolved. Deceased said he obtained the crystals from Mr. Mainwaring.

Richard Mainwaring, chemist, 183 Eastbank Street, said he did not know the deceased, and had never seen him in his shop. His granddaughter, who was aged about 18, was the only other person besides himself who served in the shop, and she had instructions not to dispense anything of a poisonous nature. He kept carbolic acid in crystal. It was the kind which was used for making dye, for cleansing sewers, and for disinfecting-purposes. He kept it amongst the other poisons. It was in the first schedule of the Act, and could only be obtained under certain specific conditions. The bottle produced was not his bottle, and the crystals contained therein did not seem to be of the same material as those which he kept in his shop. His were of a much darker colour. At the request of the Coroner and the jury Mr. Mainwaring went at once to his shop to bring the bottle of crystals mentioned. In the meantime his granddaughter, Laura Miriam Hall, was examined. She said that the shop was never left unattended. She served customers with ordinary articles, such as soap, but never sold the poisons.

She understood that it was not right for her to do so. She had been assisting her grandfather for two months. Until that morning she was unaware that there were any carbolic crystals in the shop. The bottle containing them was labelled permanganate of potash.

Mr. Mainwaring returned presently with a bottle containing permanganate of potash. In reply to the Coroner, he said he was sure it was carbolic acid. The Coroner: Read the label. Witness: I cannot. It is not permanganate of potash. The Coroner: That is not classed in the Pharmacopeia as poison. Witness: We don't take any notice of that. That is one preparation of carbolic acid. It is the only form of carbolic acid in crystals that I keep. The Coroner stated that it was not carbolic acid at all, but a different drug. There was, however, no evidence to prove that the deceased had got the poison from Mr. Mainwaring, and the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict of *feloniously*.

#### Cricket.

Taylors' Drug Company C.C. v. Reynolds & Branson's C.C., played on the Peacock Grounds, Leeds, on May 7. T. D. C., 59; R. & B., 29. For the victors A. Pennington scored 36

Burgoyne Burbidges C.C. commenced their season with a win against Hewlett's C.C., at Clapton, on May 7. Score:—Burgoynes, 73 (Selwood, 31); Hewletts, 31.

#### Munyon the Patriot.

It is announced that Professor Munyon has, by cable, offered 100,000*l.* worth of his medicines for the United States army and navy. Below is a copy of a cable sent on April 30 to President McKinley:—"You may draw on my Philadelphia house for 500,000 dols. worth of medicine as my contribution to the army and navy. England is with us.—(Signed) JAMES MUNROE MUNYON."

#### Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association.

The annual meeting of this Association was held on the evening of May 4, at the Exchange Restaurant, Birmingham, the President (Mr. H. Jessop) in the chair. The financial statement showed a credit balance of 2*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The ballot for the committee resulted in the following being elected:—Messrs. Cox, Culwick, Davis, Foster, Gateley, Jessop, Landor, Lawton, Mann, Marshall, Osborne, Selby, Thomas, and Walton. Votes of thanks were passed to the dinner secretaries (Messrs. Lawton and Walton), the ball secretaries (Messrs. Casson and Mann), and the scrutineers (Messrs. Brown and Iron). The President, in his valedictory address, reviewed the work of the past session, which had been most successful. He urged regular attendance at the meetings, because it was only by every member supporting the Association by his presence that the main object of its existence could be carried out. The President and other officials were thanked, and the remainder of the evening was spent socially.



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#### Business Changes.

Mr. J. F. O'Neill, pharmaceutical chemist, has opened a new pharmacy in Main Street, Carrick-on-Suir.

Mr. William J. Hardy, L.P.S.I., has resigned the management of Messrs. J. J. Graham's State Pharmacy, Dublin, to take over the proprietorship of Prott's Medical Hall, Belfast.

Robinson's Pharmacy (Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Limited), 112 Upper George's Street, Kingstown, has been removed to 103 Upper George's Street, in the same township, during the rebuilding of premises.

#### Personal.

The North Dublin Guardians have unanimously elected Mrs. MacDowell Cosgrave (wife of Dr. E. MacDowell Cosgrave)

L.A.H., and examiner to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland), the first lady poor-law guardian elected, "chairman" of the Sanitary Committee.

Dr. Joseph B. Jackson has been appointed compounder of medicines to Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, *vice* Mr. William McCarthy, chemist, resigned.

#### Theft.

At the Belfast Police Court on May 6 Robert McConnell, in the employment of Messrs. William Dobbin & Co. (Limited), chemists and druggists, Belfast, was charged with stealing £23. in cash, the property of the firm. Mr. Dobbin deposed that he gave the prisoner a cheque for £23., with instructions to cash it at the bank. He did so and absconded. He was arrested in Lisburn, and £21. 19s. 4d. was found on him. He pleaded guilty, and the Bench, taking the prisoner's previous good character into account, allowed him out on his own recognisances in £10. and one surety of £10. to be of good behaviour in future.

#### Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association.

The members of this Association met in the Gresham Hotel on May 5, and entertained the President, Mr. W. J. Hardy, I.P.S.I., to a complimentary dinner on the occasion of his leaving Dublin for Belfast. There was a large attendance, Mr. G. G. Fetherston, M.P.S.I. (Hon. Vice-President), occupying the chair. In proposing Mr. Hardy's health the Chairman said the inception of the Assistants' Society was due to him. He undertook the duties of Honorary Secretary in 1885, and the Association was now second to none in the United Kingdom. Messrs. Johnston, D. Sullivan, John Fetherston, Ashe, Hunt, and McWalter also spoke in friendly manner of Mr. Hardy, and that gentleman suitably acknowledged the compliments paid him.



*Scotch News*  
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#### Chemists' Golf Competition.

The ties in the second round of the hole-and-hole competition (Edinburgh District Chemists' Golf Club) played throughout last month resulted as follows:—Mr. John Morison (2) beat Mr. W. B. Cowie (3), Mr. J. G. Anderson (0) beat Mr. John Bowman (3), Mr. W. H. Wheelans (1) beat Mr. S. R. Wood (0), Mr. A. C. Kirkpatrick (0) beat Mr. R. W. Durn (4), Mr. H. D. Alexander (plus 1), beat Mr. J. M. Pirie (2), Mr. D. N. Wylie (1) beat Mr. G. Robertson (3), Mr. John Prentice (0) beat Mr. Thos. Miller (0), Mr. Jas. Stott (0) beat Mr. Wm. Swan (0), Mr. L. Scobie scratched to Mr. T. D. Burt, Mr. A. G. Bruce scratched to Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. J. D. Horsburgh scratched to Mr. Jas. Dick. The Gibson Medal will be competed for on May 18 and 21. Members who have not secured partners should communicate with the Secretary.

#### Suicide of a Chemist's Assistant.

On May 7, Robert Morrison, druggist's assistant, about 35 years of age, committed suicide in his lodgings at 79 Cadogan Street, Glasgow. His landlord heard him fall on the floor of his room, and went to ascertain the cause. He found Morrison lying on his face with a bottle near him labelled "acidum hydrocyanicum." Emetics were administered, and the ambulance waggon was sent for, but before it arrived the unfortunate man was dead. It is stated that he had been out of employment for some time.

#### A Dishonest Assistant.

At St. Rollox Police Court, Glasgow, last week, Charles Jamieson was charged with embezzling 2s. 6d. from Dr. J. F. Stevenson, his employer. Jamieson had only been in Dr.

Stevenson's employment for three weeks, but during that time the drawings had fallen away considerably. This roused the suspicion of the doctor, and on the day in question he took all the patent medicines but one out of the shop. He then sent a man into the shop to ask for the bottle which contained "Hood's sarsaparilla," giving him 2s. 6d. to pay for it. It was the prisoner's duty to enter in a book his sales for the day, but he on this occasion failed to do so. The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, stated that he had been in seven different situations within the last six years, but had lost them through drink. The Magistrate said he would try him under the First Offenders Act. Sentence would be delayed till July 25, and if he behaved himself during the interval he might get away. The prisoner promised to reform.

#### Mr. Cross's Amendments to the Pharmacy Bill.

The following letter to the Secretary of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland was read at a meeting of the directors held on May 4:—

19 Hope Street, Glasgow,  
James Macdonald, Esq.,  
April 13, 1898.  
3 George IV. Bridge, Edinburgh.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am extremely anxious to have the assistance of your Society in reference to the questions raised by the Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill presently before Parliament. Mr. Isaac Connell tells me he mentioned the matter to you, and he has petitioned the Board of Agriculture on behalf of the Scottish Chamber. I write to beg that you will submit the matter to your directors with the view of their likewise assisting in the matter. The situation is as follows: Under the Act of 1868 the Pharmaceutical Society were constituted; two orders of members were instituted—namely, members and associates—with a separate examination for each. Certain poisons were scheduled under the Act, and these poisons and any articles containing them, in however small proportion, were only allowed to be sold by members of the Pharmaceutical Society. At this time sheep-dips, insecticides, articles for the destruction of vermin on plants, weed-killers, &c., were all but unknown or in very restricted use. But things are different now, and the Pharmaceutical Society is alive to the value of this monopoly. They are entrusted with the prosecutions directed against persons who may sell such preparations without being members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and they have been prosecuting freely to vindicate their monopoly. The effects of this monopoly will be obvious to your directors. Presently sheep-dips are sold at an enormous profit, and new sheep-dips can hardly go into the market to compete at lower prices because of the licensed pharmaceutical chemists, who are all engaged with the older brands and do not want any more competition. It appears to me that all such monopolies and restrictions to trade, when applied to articles of large consumption necessary for agriculture, cannot be defended, and ought to be abolished. Nobody proposes that poisons shall be dispensed freely by incompetent persons; in the dispensing of poisons we are agreed and anxious that only skilled persons shall be employed. What I maintain, however, is that it requires no skill to hand an article across the counter which is made up, sealed, labelled, and prepared upon the credit of the manufacturer, or to sell a drum of sheep-dip similarly packed, or a packet of any of the other insect-destroyers, all which articles are necessary for horticulture, and which in my belief will speedily become of great consequence to farmers also. It may be said that accidents may arise with these articles. I do not think that this is likely; but if it be the case, it is surely obvious that the mere fact of having been sold by a pharmaceutical chemist does not render the accident less likely to occur with a farmer or a gardener than if the article had been sold by a seedsman or ironmonger. No doubt all poisons should be made up in bottles of special kind, but the Pharmaceutical Society have never taken any steps to compel this. I think the Privy Council are now going to do so, and I am strongly in favour of Government assuming the responsibility of prosecutions which may be required for infringement of their regulations. I have for some time desired to deal with these matters by special private Bill, but this year a better opportunity occurs. The Pharmaceutical Society themselves have brought in a Bill to amend the Act in some particulars to suit themselves, and there is an opportunity of amending the Act in further particulars, as above mentioned, at the same time. This is what I am trying to do, but as the Government are themselves bringing in a Poisons Act which is to be before Parliament shortly, and which will deal with carbolic acid, &c., it may be important that all these amendments should be considered together. The chemists and druggists are an influential body. They will desire to fight for their monopoly, probably to increase it if they can by getting the sale of carbolic acid and all sanitary applications into their hands, which will be a grave mistake in the public interest. Every effort will therefore require to be made now to let these articles become articles of free trade—of course,

under such restrictions, labels, and in such packages as Government may appoint. To illustrate the importance of this in the future of agriculture, may I mention some surprising results which have been obtained through the application of solutions of nicotine as preventives of disease in potatoes and many field crops, but the development of such will be checked if the salesmen and agents of the farmers engaged in agricultural trade are to be prevented from vending it, and the prices of it will be enormously increased if the chemists and druggists get it into their hands exclusively. It is too late to attempt to stop the sale of poisonous articles when those are really required and useful. You cannot prevent suicide by stopping the sale. On the same principle you would need to prevent the sale of knives and pistols, and to enact that all buildings shall be only one storey high lest persons should leap over windows, and to abolish rivers so that people might not drown themselves. To the man who wishes to commit suicide there are too many ways open to him to think of doing it with sheep-dips or insecticides. And as for accidents, if these do happen they happen on the farm or in the garden quite irrespective of the kind of shop from which the article came. I submit that the state of affairs now is completely different from what it was when the Act of 1868 was passed, and that it is against the public interest to maintain a monopoly of the selling of what have become commercial articles necessary for a large industry. Excuse my having written at such length. I am desirous to carry your Society with me, and that you should urge, in a pretty lengthy statement, the Department of Agriculture in London to take action to remedy the state of affairs. The technical position is that a few agricultural members and myself have blocked the druggists' Bill, which has for its object the apparently small desire to ease the examination for members of the Pharmaceutical Society. The gentlemen who are acting with me have no rooted aversion to the Pharmaceutical Society making itself stronger, but before it is allowed to do so we think it should be divested of its monopoly.

Yours very truly,  
ALEX. CROSS.

The Chairman (Sir John Gilmour) said this was a matter that affected agriculturists.

Sir Robert Menzies asked: Is there a monopoly? I don't think there is. It may be contrary to the Act of Parliament, but they all sell it.

Mr. Martin said there was a case two years ago of some seedsmen who were prosecuted for selling insecticide, and it was stopped. He rather sympathised with Mr. Cross's view, especially if there was any probability of the Act being extended to carbolic acid and other things.

Rev. Dr. Gillespie said no doubt the persons to whom Sir Robert referred were technically selling these goods, but they might be doing so through the pharmaceutical chemists. Mr. Cross was a very well-informed man, and what he said was worthy of attention.

Sir James Gibson Craig moved that the letter be referred to the Law Committee to ascertain the exact position of affairs. What Mr. Cross said was quite contrary to the experience of everyone in that room.

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. He had had no difficulty in buying sheep-dip from any person—grocers or ironmongers. From what Mr. Cross stated in his letter, there seemed to be a clause in the Act which compelled the Pharmaceutical Society to prosecute persons who sold poisons, although under the name of sheep-dip. It would be undesirable to have the sale of such goods confined to chemists; but he thought the matter should be remitted to the Law Committee for report to next meeting.

Mr. Hutchison, Beechwood, Perth, moved that they support Mr. Cross in his action. The tendency was for the Pharmaceutical Society to get their own way, and if they did so it would make these things dearer, and restrict their sale to chemists. That was what Mr. Cross wished to prevent.

This view was generally favoured, and it was agreed to support Mr. Cross in whatever action he might take, and the Chairman and Secretary were instructed to petition Parliament to that effect if they found that necessary.

On the suggestion of Sir James Gibson Craig the matter was also remitted to the Law Committee to ascertain their position in regard to the matter.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—"I would like to say how much I appreciate 'Pharmaceutical Formulas.' I have had more than my money's worth out of it already."—H. GIBSON (Llandudno).

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

THE FRENCH GENERAL ELECTIONS took place last Sunday, and amongst the 2,038 candidates for parliamentary honours who presented themselves for the 581 vacant seats are five registered as pharmacists in business. These are:—M. Parat, by politics an anti-Jew, in the Dordogne Department; M. Charles Bernard, Socialist, in the Gironde; M. Scelle, Socialist, and Mayor of Denain, in the Nord; M. Bouziques, pharmacist at Paris, in the Hautes Pyrénées; and M. Marsat, Republican, at Dakar, Senegal. None of them were elected at the first ballot, though MM. Bernard and Scelle have an excellent chance of being successful at the second voting; the others will have the privilege of retiring into private life again. Another pharmacist, though not registered as such at the election, is M. Astier, the new Vice-President of the Paris Municipal Council. He professes Radical Socialism in politics, and has been elected for the Ardèche Department with 8,522 votes out of 15,774. Several other pharmacists, who are either retired from business or have the degree of Doctor of Medicine, have been elected. As a matter of fact, the number of doctors in the new Parliament is likely to be, as in the last, comparatively large. One veterinary surgeon and one dentist entered the lists.

THE DRAMATIC SIDE OF PHARMACY.—The assistant who made up the medicine which, it is alleged, caused the death of a child a month ago in Paris was prosecuted last week on the charge of homicide by imprudence, but was acquitted as not legally responsible. In consequence proceedings are being taken against his employer on the same charge.—The son of a pharmacist in business near the Boulevard Bonne Nouvelle, Paris, committed suicide a few days ago by absorbing a strong dose of cyanide of potassium. The youth was employed as assistant by his father, and left a long letter addressed to his parents in which he complained of having had to give up all the pleasures of life to devote himself to the task of obtaining his pharmacist's diploma, and declared he had not the courage to go in for another examination, adding: "I destroy myself and ask your pardon for the act."—Last Friday evening there was a terrible explosion in the cellar of M. Genasi's pharmacy, Place Gambetta, Flers. The front of the shop was blown out, the shelves were dismantled, and the flooring gave way. Several persons who were in the pharmacy at the time were seriously burnt and otherwise injured. The premises took fire and burned for three hours, the house being entirely gutted, while the houses on either side were damaged by the heat and flames. The explosion also caused injury to various people who were passing at the time, and the window, in the houses opposite were broken. The exact cause of the explosion has not yet been discovered.

SCIENCE AT THE SALON.—There is less of science amongst the pictures exhibited at the Paris Academy of Painting this year than usual. Not that artists have ever found especially attractive such sciences as chemistry, pharmacy, or any of the allied ones in which we are especially interested. Is the reason to be found in the fact that wealthy art-patrons are rare amongst the men who rank as *savants*? Interesting subjects could, no doubt, be found in the laboratories of some of the leading French chemists and pharmacists, surely quite as well worth recording on canvas as a boy polishing a copper kettle, a basketful of fruit and vegetables, or a female in meagre attire taking a foot-bath. The one picture appertaining to science to which I may call attention on this occasion, is a magnificent semi-symbolical production by M. Paul Sinibaldi, intended as a large decorative panel. It is entitled "Industry Receiving the Discoveries of Arts and Sciences," and is treated with a masterly hand in an interesting way. There is an enormous amount of detail in the picture, and it is so well defined that he who looks may read. Chemistry and electricity are especially prominent. We are shown a great river with its wharves and huge shipping, while numerous factory-chimneys are in the distance. In the foreground is a group of muscular mechanics at work, and in the centre female figures are descending from the unknown, bearing with them electric appliances, symbolical, no doubt, of the future development

of that scienee. I should also mention a small water-colour picture by E. Desjeux, showing a doctor in a French dispensary, testing a child's lungs with his ear, while two young mothers stand by. A dozen or so bottles of variegated coloured medicines are on a table in front of him. The subject is homely, and is a good picture of poor Paris life. Here, too, are shown plans of the new Boucicault model hospital recently opened. All these are in the exhibition of the Société des Artistes Français, where are shown the productions of artists who follow well-marked traditions. "Glorified chromo-lithographs" their productions are called by the advanced school of artists, and the latter have their own "salon" near by under the name of the Société Nationale des Beaux Arts. Here one finds a good deal of perversity in the paintings exhibited. Perhaps the most perverse of all is M. J. Francis Auburton's "Decorative Panel for the Amphitheatre of Zoology at the Paris Sorbonne." It is an enormous canvas, and when first the eye strikes it there appears to be merely one mass of diabolical shapes of hideous green hue. A few minutes' careful examination, however, reveals a good deal of charming detail of subjects appropriate to zoology. In this section I also noticed an unattractive water-colour by E. Desmoulin, representing a surgical operation.

## Colonial and Foreign News.

**BRITISH TRADE AT PIREUS,** the chief port of Greece, further diminished in 1897, owing to the keen competition of France, Belgium and Germany, which countries (says the British Consul at Piraeus) pay greater attention to the Greek market, and give better facilities for delivery and payment.

**A TOMBSTONE FOR A COUNTER.**—A chemist in Leesburg Va., U.S., has a marble headstone for his counter. It once marked the grave of a noted duellist, but after figuring in that position for some years the remains were removed, and the headstone was sold and ultimately used as a shop-fitting in the way indicated.

**LEHN & FINK.**—This well known New York firm of wholesale druggists has been re-organised through the retirement of Mr. F. W. Fink. The business will be continued under the same name by Messrs Albert and Joseph Plaut, with Messrs. Henry Merz and J. Robertson as special partners.

**NEW YORK HEALTH EXHIBITION.**—At the Grand Central Palace, New York, last month an International Health Exposition was opened under the auspices of the Red Cross Society. More than three acres of space are devoted to apparatus and appliances of all kinds illustrating hygienic and sanitary inventions. The departments include domestic sanitation, municipal hygiene, food-products, military and naval hygiene, &c.

**DEATH OF THE SHORTER HOURS BILL.**—The Shorter Hours Bill for the drug clerks of New York, on whose hopeful prospects we commented in our issue of April 23, has been killed for another year at least. Mayor Van Wyck on April 20 returned the Bill without approval on the ground that it gave too much power to the Board of Health. The Druggists' League for Shorter Hours, which promulgated the Bill, still maintains its organisation however, and its officers say they will work for the legislation of a similar Bill next year.

**COLOMBO APOTHECARIES' COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The directors' report of this company for the year ending March 31 shows that, after writing off 1,250*r.* on account of the goodwill of the lease, 7,449 76*r.* for depreciation on fittings and furniture account, setting aside 7 500*r.* for bad and doubtful debts, and carrying 15,000*r.* to reserve account, there will be an available balance of 38,097 48*r.* The gross profit on sales amounted to 219,143*r.* Salaries and commissions cost 89,333*r.* Out of the balance the directors recommend the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent. A steady increase of business during the year is reported.

**U.S.A. WAR-TAXES**—The proposed stamp-tax on medicines is not received with joy by the U.S. drug-trade, and the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, as well as the proprietary-medicine manufacturers, are moving in the matter,

chiefly with the view of getting the duty more equally distributed. The following is the proposal:—

Articles selling at less than 10*c.*,  $\frac{1}{2}$ *c.*; over 10*c.* and not exceeding 25*c.*, 1*c.*; over 25*c.* and not above 50*c.*, 2*c.*; over 50*c.* and not above 75*c.*, 3*c.*; over 75*c.* and not above \$1, 4*c.*; for each 50*c.* or fraction thereof above \$1, 2*c.* Perfumery and cosmetics the same rates. Chewing gum, 5*c.* per dollar's worth; and 2*c.* per 5*c.* packet. Mineral and all other waters and beverages, 1*c.* per pint (16 oz.).

The *O.P.D. Reporter* mentions that the importers of spices are working hard to secure a duty on these articles, the contention being that at least \$5,000,000 might be derived from this source, and the following amendment has been prepared to be presented in the Senate:—

**Spices:**—Mustard, unground, 3*c.* per lb.; ground, 10*c.* per lb. Pepper, black and white, cayenne and red peppers, all kinds, and allspice, unground, 10*c.* per lb.; ground, 15*c.* per lb. Pepper-shells, unground, 10*c.* per lb. Pepper-dust, 25*c.* per lb. Cloves, unground, 25*c.* per lb.; ground, 25*c.* per lb. Clove-stems, unground, 10*c.* per lb.; ground, 15*c.* per lb. Cassia and cassia vera, unground, 20*c.* per lb.; ground, 35*c.* per lb. Cassia-buds, 25*c.* per lb. Nutmegs, unground, 25*c.* per lb.; ground, 40*c.* per lb. Mace, unground, 45*c.* per lb.; ground, 40*c.* per lb. And, in addition to the foregoing rates, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, when the said goods are not imported directly from the countries in which they respectively are produced.

It also suggested that all Spanish produce, including pyrites and sulphur, should be taxed 10 per cent. This is the usual protectionist assumption that the tariff-taxes are paid by those who supply the goods

**ATROPIA FOR MORPHIA**—The adjourned inquest regarding the death of Dr. S. I. Williams through atropine-poisoning (*C. & D.*, April 16, page 608) was concluded at Melbourne on March 31. Dr. Williams was in the habit of taking hypodermic injections of morphine, and on the evening of March 6 he went into the shop of Mr. James Christopher, chemist, Clifton Hill, Fitzroy, for a fresh supply, and obtained atropine sulphate instead. This he used himself, and gave some to a lady patient. The evidence at the inquest consisted largely of the testimony of the doctors who attended the lady and the doctor. The former recovered, owing chiefly to the action of pilocarpine, which was also tried on Dr. Williams, but failed. Mr. James Christopher, in his evidence, stated that he was at the back of his shop on March 6. His son, James William Christopher, attended to the shop on Sunday afternoons. On that occasion his son came to the back and asked where the sulphate of morphia was kept.

Witness went out, took from the poison-case a box containing a number of tubes of alkaloids. His son took the box from him. Witness afterwards saw the tube in his son's hands which he thought was the sulphate-of-morphia tube. He saw the word "sulphate." His son was turning the tube round, apparently reading the label. Witness then turned back, and walked backwards and forwards, not to interrupt his son, who, he could see, was in a hurry. Heard him say, "I will make it up as soon as I can, doctor." About half an hour after he was again in the shop, and his son was then upstairs. He found on the counter a bottle, marked "Sulphate of atropin," empty. He sent for his son, and asked if that was what he had dispensed. On finding that it was, his son telephoned to Dr. Williams, but too late to prevent the fatality. Mr. C. R. Blakett, Government analyst, was examined in regard to his analysis of pathological specimens, and regarding the action of atropine and morphine, and the regulations for the sale of poisons. James William Christopher was also called, but did not desire to make any statement. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that Dr. Williams died from the effects of atropine wrongly dispensed by James William Christopher, whom they found guilty of manslaughter. The accused was admitted to his own bail of 50*l.*, and his father in 50*l.*, and committed to take his trial on Friday, April 15. We understand that the label on the bottle of atropine was much faded, and the Coroner remarked upon the fact. A sketch of the label was made at the inquest, but the engraving here-with makes the lettering far too distinctive. The writing was not so black as a pencil-mark.



## Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on May 4. Present: Mr. R. J. Downes (President), Mr. Beggs (Vice-President), Mr. Grindley (Hon Treasurer), and Messrs. Conyngham, Hayes, Kelly, and Wells, Dr. Walsh, and Professor Tichborne.

Before the minutes were signed,

Mr. HAYES asked why the account of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Council given in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was not a complete account.

The PRESIDENT: That does not arise on the signing of the minutes.

Mr. HAYES said he would repeat his question after the minutes had been signed.

### THE REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes having been signed,

Mr. HAYES again asked why the account, given in the journal representing the Society, of the proceedings of the last Council meeting was not a correct one. The matter omitted from it was of great interest to all the members of the Society, and it should have been given to them. Why was the account garbled?

The PRESIDENT: For my own part, I can say at once that the report was not garbled in any way. It will be admitted that before I came to the chair—and certainly it has been my rule since I came to the chair—that once we enter upon the discussion of the reports of committees no discussion has been reported.

Mr. HAYES: We were not in committee then.

The PRESIDENT: Were we not? What did it arise on? It arose on a report of the Certificates Committee.

Mr. HAYES: It arose on the exclusion of Mr. William Conyngham from the examinations.

The PRESIDENT: It arose on the discussion of a report of the Certificates Committee.

The VICE PRESIDENT: On a report that came from the Certificates Committee. It was on that that the discussion arose.

The PRESIDENT: Our reporter has notes of the discussion. I told him not to send them forward, but if Mr. Hayes wishes that a transcript of them should be sent forward, and if the Council approve of it, I shall have no objection.

Mr. HAYES: Of course you are responsible for it.

The PRESIDENT: I acted on precedent, but it is quite within the power of the Council now to direct the reporter to send forward a copy of his notes.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: I always understood that anything that took place in committee was not reported.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: If you refer back to the past you will find that you are not correct in saying that no discussions on reports of committees have been reported in the journals. I remember Mr. Hodgson saying that everything that takes here should be reported unless it is otherwise ordered from the chair. This matter is one that concerns a great number of licentiates and hundreds of assistants who will one day become qualified, and they should have some knowledge of it. By-laws have been passed that were *ultra vires*, and which, if the discussions about them had been published beforehand—Mr. Wells is going to say something. I see him looking at the reporter.

Mr. WELLS: The cat may look at the king.

Mr. CONYNGHAM said he also saw Mr. Wells nodding to the reporter.

Mr. WELLS denied that he did any such thing.

The REPOETER disclaimed having seen or received any signs.

Mr. WELLS said it had been an invariable rule in the Council as long as he had been connected with it—which was for the last fifteen or sixteen years—that committee work had not been reported. On one or two occasions some member of the Council, thinking to put him (Mr. Wells) into a corner, proposed that a report of proceedings should be put into the papers. Then it was moved and seconded that the committee approved of the matter being reported, and it was done on that occasion; but he never knew of its being done as a general rule, and he believed it to be the practice of most societies to take committee-work privately.

It would be most suicidal if they were to report all the proceedings of committees, and show their hand to the world.

Mr. CONYNGHAM repeated that, in consequence of matters not having been reported, laws had been made that afterwards turned out to be *ultra vires*.

Mr. WELLS said the regulations referred to by Mr. Conyngham were approved of by two Lord Chancellors and other members of the judicial Bench. If Mr. Hayes and Mr. Conyngham wanted to have what was said at the last meeting of Council about the matter in question reported, and if they thought that it would be to Mr. Hayes's credit, let it be reported. He (Mr. Wells) was sorry it was not reported, because the threat that was uttered against the Council on that occasion was utter rubbish. Let it be put to the vote now as to whether the proceedings in question should be reported or not.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that at a Board of Commissioners of which he was a member, the Press were not allowed to publish matters that were dealt with in committee, although they might hear them.

Mr. HAYES: I do not accept the ruling that we were in committee on the occasion in question. The fact that a report from a committee was read did not make the proceedings committee-work.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no motion before the Council we will go on to the next business.

Mr. HAYES: Has a report been received from our solicitor on the question that was referred to him?

The PRESIDENT: No; it has not. I wrote to him stating that we would meet to-day, and he replied saying that the matter had been sent to counsel, and that he had not received it back yet.

### A COMPANY COUNCILLOR'S RESIGNATION.

A letter was read from Mr. R. W. McKnight, resigning his seat on the Council. The letter stated that, having been co-opted at a time when he had no connection with any limited company, and having since joined the Ulster Chemists' Company, he felt bound to resign his seat; but, if he should hereafter be elected, he would faithfully discharge his duty to the Society.

Mr. GRINDLEY moved that Mr. McKnight's resignation be accepted. He had acted very fairly towards those who supported his co-option; and it was only fair to him that they should accede to his request.

Mr. WELLS seconded the motion. It was due to the licentiates that they should accept Mr. McKnight's resignation. He had acted in the way he (Mr. Wells) expected that he would do. He did not think Mr. McKnight could have taken any other course under the circumstances, and, taking into account the voice of the licentiates at the last election, the Council would not be doing their duty if they did not accept Mr. McKnight's resignation. It would be open to him to put himself forward at the next election, and if the licentiates should think that he ought to represent them they could elect him. Though he was a friend of his (Mr. Wells), and he should like for many reasons to see him on the Council, yet he could not do otherwise than he was now doing.

### A BREEZE.

Mr. CONYNGHAM said the licentiates were very unfairly dealt with at the last election. A lie was allowed to proceed, and it never was checked, not even by the President—a lie on his friend, that caused him not to get votes, and he (Mr. Conyngham) knew as a matter of fact that if many of the licentiates had got their papers back again they would have voted differently. But the lie went forth—a most cold-blooded lie on his friend—and yet Mr. Wells would not lift his finger or his voice, but used the lie to defame his friend.

Mr. WELLS: If this is to go on I will not sit here.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: It is true, sir—perfectly true.

Mr. WELLS: This is a perfectly low corner-boy sort of thing.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: The lie of the man that Mr. Robinson had to take the action against.

Mr. WELLS: And what had I to say to that? I say it is a low corner-boy thing to attack me in reference to a matter that I had nothing to do with. When that letter appeared in the journal I consulted with my colleagues as to

what was my proper course, and I concluded that it would be wiser not to interfere in the matter at all. Was I to read everything and answer everything that appears in the journal? Anyone has only to go back on the meetings of the Council in order to see what I said of the same gentleman. That man there has put Mr. Robinson, my old friend, and myself apart by the untruths that he is telling. Why? Simply because I could not stoop to do what other people do, and prove unfaithful to the trust that has been reposed in me here. I acted straight in that matter; and I say that it is a personal matter on Mr. Conyngham's part to be coming here day after day and making personal attacks on me.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: Excuse me, I am making no personal attack. I am only stating what is perfectly true. You used a covert hand. There were circulars sent out, and you used those circulars, and never raised your voice to say where they came from.

Mr. WELLS: I used it? I say you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Am I to repudiate every anonymous letter?

The VICE-PRESIDENT: I think there should be some other place than the council-room for settling these personal matters.

Mr. WELLS: It is a low proceeding to be making these attacks on me. (To Mr. Conyngham.) You know they are untrue. I hope this will be reported. I know what the licentiates will think of it.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: I know what they will think very well.

Mr. WELLS: Your ill-tongue never lowered their estimate of me.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: I am stating what is true.

Mr. WELLS: You are stating what is false, and you ought to be utterly ashamed of yourself. No wonder that religion is looked down on, the way you go on.

The PRESIDENT: I wish these personalities would cease.

The motion that Mr. McKnight's resignation should be accepted was then put and unanimously agreed to.

#### AN UNQUALIFIED SALE OF POISON.

A letter from the Under-Secretary at Dublin Castle enclosed a copy of a memorial which Peter Fitzpatrick, of King Williamstown, co. Cork, who had been fined two sums of 5*l.* each for unlawfully selling and keeping open shop for the sale of carbolic acid, had forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant, asking to have the penalties abated; and requested the Council to favour the Privy Council with any observations they desired to make thereon.

The PRESIDENT said he had drafted a reply, which the Registrar would read.

Mr. FERRALL read the draft reply.

Mr. CONYNGHAM said the Council should send an inspector round the country to point out to people quietly the risk they ran in selling poisons without being qualified to do so. But if they were prosecuted for selling a bit of carbolic acid or rat-poison they would turn their places into limited companies.

Mr. WELLS: Would they stop it for you?

Mr. CONYNGHAM: In many cases they would.

Mr. WELLS: In nearly every case in which there has been a prosecution the man has been served with a registered letter.

Mr. GRINDLEY: It would be ridiculous to have a man on the stump all over Ireland finding out where these things are sold, and dealing with the sellers in a fatherly way.

The PRESIDENT: There are hundreds of cases in which these things are sold, and yet your licentiates are afraid to open their lips about them.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: The licentiates all complain that So-and-so is breaking the law, and that we are taking no steps to prevent it; and yet when they are asked to come forward with evidence they say, "No."

Mr. CONYNGHAM: You know they cannot do it. A man will not prosecute his neighbour.

The draft reply was approved of.

#### THE COUNCIL AND COMPANY-PHARMACY.

Letters were read from certain bodies expressing sympathy with the Council in their efforts to secure an amendment of the Companies Act. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain wrote, by their Secretary (Mr. Bremridge), saying

that they had been actively engaged for the last two years in the same direction, and that the Irish Society had their best wishes in the efforts which they were making; and in another letter of a later date—April 28 Mr. Bremridge wrote expressing the thanks of the President of the English Society to the President of the Irish Society for the courtesy and prompt assistance given by the latter writing to Mr. Field, M.P., in reference to Mr. Boot's circular, and saying when the Bill for the amendment of the Companies Act came on that the Irish Society might depend on their actively following up their endeavours to put an end to the present anomalous position. The letter also mentioned that it was three years since the English Society had first approached the Board of Trade on the subject. A letter from Mr. Gick, Secretary of the Irish Medical Association, stated that the Council had the sympathy of that body in their efforts to obtain the insertion in the Amendment Bill of the clause previously mentioned. A letter from the Incorporated Law Society, U.K., stated that, whilst sympathising with the views of the Council, they did not consider that it would be within their province to support the petition for amendment; and a letter from Dr. Montgomery, Secretary of the Apothecaries' Hall, Ireland, stated that that body agreed with the Pharmaceutical Council's recommendations, and that their Board intended to take independent action in the matter.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the English Society did not give the Council much credit for the efforts they had made in the matter. Mr. Field, M.P., had forwarded Boot's circular to him (the President) asking about the English Amendment Bill, and he answered by telegram and letter asking him to support it.

Mr. WELLS said that when he was in the chair he wrote to the President of the English Society asking for information in order that they might work together in this matter, and he received a very short letter in reply which gave no information whatever.

#### ON THE BRITISH PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. CONYNGHAM: What is the purpose of the present English Bill? In what way does it affect us?

The PRESIDENT: It does not affect us at all. I have not gone into it particularly, but they want to increase the range of their membership so as to be able to elect their present Minor men as members of their Council.

Mr. WELLS: At present their chemists and druggists who are in business on their own account can only be associates of the Society; but the Bill proposes to make them members of the Society, and then they can be members of the Council.

Professor TICHBORNE: What do the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons say?

The PRESIDENT: We have not received their replies yet.

#### THE BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA, 1893.

A letter was read from the Registrar of the Irish Branch of the Medical Council expressing regret that he was unable to send a copy of the new Pharmacopœia to the Society, but offering to lend to the President personally a copy of the work for a fortnight.

Professor TICHBORNE said he was informed that the work would be out for purchase by the public on the following Wednesday.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Every wholesale house in the United Kingdom has it.

The PRESIDENT said he had directed the Registrar to reply to the letter, declining the offer of a loan of the work, and stating that he failed to see how the work could at present be regarded as confidential, seeing that it had already been sent to the trade-journals and had been reviewed by them.

#### APOTHECARIES' HALL COURTESIES.

A letter was read from the Apothecaries' Hall, offering specimens for the completion of the Society's *Materia Medica* School collection.

Mr. WELLS: I move that we accept their offer and tender them our best thanks.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Several reports of committees were then disposed of.

## NEW MEMBERS.

On the motion of Mr. GRINDLEY, seconded by Mr. BAXTER, Mr. Samuel Curham, Dublin, was elected a member of the Society; and on the motion of Mr. WELLS, seconded by Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. Charles Eustace Price, Athy, was elected a member.

On the motion of Mr. GRINDLEY, seconded by Mr. BAXTER, Mr. Richard Barry, Cork, was elected an associate druggist.

Mr. William Corrigan was nominated for membership. The Council then adjourned.

## Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

THE annual meeting was held on May 4 at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, Mr. F. J. Gibson (Wolverhampton), President, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT moved the adoption of the annual report (an abstract of which appeared in our last issue). He expressed the opinion that the year's work had been satisfactory, but regretted that 7l. had been lost on the annual ball. In regard to finance generally they had not come out so badly, and all the money had been well spent, and for the good of the Association.

Mr. W. JONES seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

## HOW TO ELECT A COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAS. THOMPSON moved that Rule 6, as recommended by the Council, be altered to read as follows:—"That the Council shall be composed of sixteen members elected by the members of the Birmingham and Aston district, together with one representative elected by every town within a radius of thirty miles, the voting to be by proxy, and that, in the event of no representative being appointed, the Council shall have power to elect such representative as they may deem fit." Hitherto the Council has consisted of so many representatives from each of the Parliamentary divisions of the district, elected by the members resident in that district, but Mr. Thompson pointed out that this system had not worked well.

Mr. SOUTHALL seconded.

Mr. R. D. GIBBS advised caution in the matter, and moved that the rule remain unaltered.

Mr. E. J. P. FERRIDAY seconded.

Mr. THOS. BARCLAY said he had felt from the beginning that election on the basis of Parliamentary divisions would be unworkable, though, his friends said, the idea would galvanise the Association into greater activity. A Parliamentary representative had special duties and special constituents, but he did not see how the representatives of this Council could take upon themselves special duties for any special localities. The great thing was to get the best men regardless of local areas, and the modification of the Council made towards this end was practical and workable.

The proposal was carried by a large majority.

After a vote of thanks to the President, officers, and members of Council; the members adjourned to the dining-room of the hotel, where

## THE ANNUAL DINNER

was arranged. This function was notable for the presence of Mr. Walter Hills, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. Gibson took the chair at 8.30, and was supported on the right by Mr. Hills, Mr. W. Jones (President of the P.A.T.A.), Mr. A. W. Gerrard, Mr. Cuxson, and Mr. MacEwan; on the left, by Mr. W. G. Cross (Shrewsbury), Mr. Alfred Southall, Mr. Thomas Barclay, Mr. H. Jessop (President Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association). Amongst those present we also noticed Messrs. R. Darton Gibbs, F. H. Alcock, Charles Thompson, John Humphrey, G. E. Perry, H. S. Shorthouse (Hon. Secretary), A. W. Southall, J. Wakefield, and J. C. Mackenzie. After "The Queen" had been toasted,

Mr. T. BARCLAY extended a cordial welcome to the President of the Pharmaceutical Society. That Society, he said, had several founders, but among them the name of Jacob Bell stood pre-eminent. (Applause.) He was one of

a noble band who found pharmacy in a very primitive state. There were, no doubt, good men who in their back shops carried out experiments and investigations, but there were no schools of pharmacy in Bloomsbury, and the condition of pharmacy was altogether in a very backward state. These men—and all honour to them—took the task in hand of educating the craft and of founding the Pharmaceutical Society, even extending their work to the provinces. The Birmingham branch of the Society was started in 1847. In the first year the branch had two courses of lectures—one by Professor Shaw, of Queen's College (who was still alive), on chemistry; the other, by Professor Knowles, on botany. In the second session the lectures were not so well attended, which led him to say that they felt in the provinces they would never be able to do very much in the way of getting regular attendances and carrying on regular studies until they had an enforced curriculum. (Applause.) The various Presidents of the Pharmaceutical Society would look back with pride and satisfaction upon the way the Society had developed, but many of them in the country felt that if there was a little more backbone and a little more of the fighting-element, it would be better for the profession and the public, whose interests were identical. Chemists were weighted with heavy responsibilities in the shape of legal restrictions, for which there was no fair *quid pro quo*. They were glad, however, to recognise that the Society was doing a great deal. They had succeeded in obtaining a footing in the preparation of the new Pharmacopœia; that was a step in the right direction. They wanted, however, greater protection in the matter of company-pharmacy. But they must recognise that the Society could only go as fast as its members would allow; unless it was well supported, and was thoroughly representative of the country, it was impossible for the Society to do what was expected of it. He was glad on that account, therefore, that the Society was pressing forward the new Pharmacy Bill. Touching on the relative duties of the medical man and the pharmacist, he affirmed that as pharmacy advanced dispensing by medical men would gradually cease. It was to the interest of the public that these two professions should be kept distinct.

Mr. WALTER HILLS, who was most cordially greeted, acknowledged the toast. He expressed the opinion that Jacob Bell, Mr. Sandford, and Mr. Carteighe had done more for the Pharmaceutical Society, politically speaking, than probably any other three persons. He did not say all that the Council did was the right thing, but he did say that the Council did as much as it could to promote the welfare of all who followed their calling. Mr. Barclay said he would like to see a little more backbone; his reply was that that backbone must be supplied by chemists throughout the country joining the Society, and then voting for the right men to represent them on the Council. He had found during the last few months that the influence which they exercised throughout the country was very great, and he was there to say how grateful the Council were for the loyal efforts which had been made by local secretaries to support them in trying to get the Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill through Parliament. When he went to the House of Commons he always felt that if he had the local people behind him, by bringing a little pressure to bear on the member he was interviewing, he was strong; if he had no public opinion behind him he was weak. During the last few days he had had the following note from the North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association:—

I am directed to forward you copy of the following resolution which has been unanimously passed by the above Association:—"That this Association as a body think that the retiring members of the Pharmaceutical Council should define their position and show that in the future they intend to pursue a more progressive policy."

(Laughter.) He was one of the retiring members, and he thought this was a very good opportunity to ask them—what he had never asked before—to vote for him at the coming election. He maintained that the policy of the Pharmaceutical Council had on the whole been a progressive one. The Society was founded for three great objects—the protection of common interests, the promotion of education, and the furtherance of benevolence. As regards the benevolent fund they had done very well indeed. When he told them that during the year 1897 they spent more than 3,000l. for the relief

of those of their brothers who had fallen into difficulties, they would see that the Society had been able to do a grand work, and he was glad to say it was a progressive work, because at the last festival they made over 2,000/-—a record collection. (Applause.) The policy of the Society with reference to education had also been progressive, and during the past twelve months the Privy Council had confirmed the by-laws which would render necessary a better and more thorough general education. That alteration was one of the best things the Pharmaceutical Society had been able to accomplish for many a long day. (Applause.) If they considered, too, what was being done for the advancement of education in their own school, they would again agree that their educational policy was progressive. (Hear, hear.) The protection of common interests was a large subject, and was largely ruled by considerations which he had urged—that they could do much if they were united, but very little if they were not. He quite agreed with Mr. Barclay that they could do nothing contrary to the interests of the public; they could only progress so long as they showed that in their progress they also served better the great public. And the factor necessary to obtain that better position was a strong and united opinion within their own body. At present they only represented a comparatively small number of registered men; why should not practically the whole of the registered men belong to them? (Applause.) When those men were asked why they did not belong to the Society, the answer, he was told, was invariably this—"What is the Society doing for us?" A great deal might be done if they were loyal to one another. If they were loyal to themselves companies would not be able to carry on business for another day. How was it that Mr. Jesse Boot could flood the House of Commons with a pamphlet in which he said he had 150 qualified assistants? There were 150 of their own people helping to do that class of business, and if they were true to one another there would be greater difficulty in carrying on these companies, which were so inimical to their interests. (Hear, hear.) The Pharmacy Bill now before the House of Commons was a progressive measure. It would enable those who had the statutory qualification to take part in the active management of the Society. It had been supported by chemists throughout the land, and would help to make the Society capable of doing more good work. So far as he knew, the Bill had no opponents among their own body; but they had an opposition to the Bill—a difficult opposition, and one to which it would be better for him not to allude. He was hopeful that even now they would overcome that opposition, and that in the course of the present Session they would succeed in passing the Bill. (Applause.) Mr. Barclay had spoken of medical men dispensing. He was one of those who thought that the calling of pharmacy would never be entirely satisfactory in this country until pharmacists, who were qualified with that special object, had nine-tenths at least of the dispensing of prescriptions in their own hands. (Applause.) The more medical men were trained in the subjects which pertained to their special departments, and the better pharmacists were trained, the less likely were the two bodies to trench on the preserves of each other. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he wished the Midland Pharmaceutical Association all success, and expressed pleasure at the existence of a thriving chemists' assistants' association in the town. (Applause.)

Mr. G. E. PERRY proposed "The Medical and Dental Professions," for which

Mr. DENCER WHITTLES, lecturer on *materia medica* at Mason University College, responded in a humorous speech.

Mr. J. WAKEFIELD proposed "Kindred Associations."

Mr. H. JESSOP (President of the Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association) replied first, and assured the President that assistants as a rule would use the increased power which it was proposed to give them under the new Pharmacy Bill to the best interests of pharmacy and the craft generally. He expressed a desire that more attention should be paid to the subject of early closing.

Mr. R. D. GIBBS (Secretary to the Federation of Local Associations) also responded. He had, he said, taken great interest in local Associations, because he felt that if they succeeded in infusing, through these local Associations, a considerable amount of interest in the well-being of the craft, the parent Society would never have cause to regret their formation. He, too, had got a copy of the resolution from the North-

East Lancashire Association, but he did not think it need cause any fear or trembling, because it had come a little too late. It would be his duty to put the resolution before the fifty and some odd Associations throughout the country, and it would be for them to say whether the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society had been progressive. No harm would be done if the Society found that the whole of these local Associations supported the views of the North-East Lancashire Association. One of two things would happen—the Council would retire *en bloc* or take the hint that they had got behind in a progressive policy. This last course they would be very likely to take, and it would be a wise course.

"The Press" was then honoured, and "The health of the President" was given with musical honours—which reminds us that the musical entertainment was excellent, and the whole arrangements so pleasing that many seemed loth to leave the hotel.

### Exeter Association of Chemists and Druggists.

THIS Association met on May 6 to discuss the new *Pharmacopœia*, and also to consider a letter from the P.A.T.A. Mr. D. Reid (the President) presided. Mr. P. F. ROWSELL (the Hon. Secretary) read the following communication which he had received from Mr. Glyn-Jones:—

DEAR SIR,—It has been felt that our Association is not making the best use of the fact that, almost without exception, every local chemists' association in the country is in sympathy with our work. First of all, we are anxious upon all our stationery to give a list of the local chemists' associations which are working in conjunction with us, and I would be glad if your committee will give you permission to include the name of your Association in such a list.

As you will know, several of the Associations have at different times passed resolutions to be sent to various proprietors, and these have always had a beneficial effect. I think that the usefulness of these resolutions would be very much enhanced if simultaneous representations were made from all the various local Chemists' Associations throughout the country, and to this end we respectfully suggest that the committee of your Association should meet once in each month to consider a circular which will be issued by us to all the local Associations working with us. Such a circular would really be an epitome of the work carried on during the previous month at headquarters and negotiations which would then be pending between particular firms and this Association. It would then be possible for your committee to pass resolutions and to make representations on behalf of your Association to the particular proprietors, and also to send any suggestions for the consideration of our Council.

This work, of course, can be done either by your executive committee or, if thought preferable, by a small committee appointed to deal specially with P.A.T.A. matters. It would be of great advantage if the committee in the various towns were to meet during the same week in each month—say, for instance, the first week. Proprietors and other firms would then receive from all the important towns in the land simultaneous communications on behalf of the local Chemists' Association in their district. No doubt, if this can be arranged, further good work will grow out of this close connection and active co-operation as between yourselves and our Council. I would esteem it a special favour if you will kindly take the earliest opportunity of getting your committee's decision as to the proposals contained in this letter.

I am, yours respectfully,

W. S. GLYN-JONES, Secretary.

In the course of a discussion that ensued, in which Mr. T. C. MILTON, Mr. VINDEN, Mr. LEMMON, Mr. LAKE, and the CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY took part, it was stated that chemists sometimes sold below the minimum through inadvertence.

The CHAIRMAN said he sent up to Mr. Glyn-Jones some time ago a suggestion which he said he would think over, but which he had not yet adopted, which was that instead of printing in the *Anti-cutting Record* a list of prices in the ordinary type, he should publish an official list on a card, so that traders could place it in their establishments. Mr. ROWSELL said he would mention the matter at the next committee meeting in London.

Several members, however, thought the cardboard lists would be expensive.

Mr. ROWSELL thought they might appoint a sub-committee to meet once a month and discuss P.A.T.A. matters. Mr. LAKE suggested that the President, Mr. Vinden, and Mr. Milton should form the committee. Mr. MILTON proposed that the whole Association should form the committee, and this suggestion was ultimately adopted. Mr. REID asked Mr. Rowsell if the P.A.T.A. was very much alive. He thought that lately it had not been doing so much as formerly. Mr. ROWSELL said it was working as hard as ever, and went into details, making especial reference to the enthusiasm with which Mr. Sanger had always supported it.

The meeting next proceeded to discuss the subject of the new Pharmacopœia, and it was resolved to send to every medical man in the city copies of Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney's pamphlet on the new Pharmacopœia and of Mr. Gadd's synopsis, the publishers of these works presenting copies for the purpose.

The following letter was to be sent also :—

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned, members of the Exeter Chemists' Association, desire to call your attention to the fact that on the 1st day of June the new British Pharmacopœia will be in the hands of the booksellers, and, in order to prevent confusion, we have decided to dispense all new prescriptions on and after that date according to the new Pharmacopœia. If you desire to prescribe by the old British Pharmacopœia, will you kindly put "1885" on the right-hand side of the article ordered? We take the liberty of enclosing two very useful books showing the alterations made. In thanking you most sincerely for your past kindness,

We remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient servants.

[Then follow the names of the members of the Association.]

The Association passed votes of thanks to the firms named for their kindness in providing the books.

## Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THE annual meeting of the Association was held on May 5, Mr. T. Morley Taylor (President) in the chair. Mr. F. W. GAMBLE presented the annual report, in which he said that the membership was 122. Forty-three new members had been elected during the past year. The patrons number 49, as last year. Ten papers had been read during the session, and three demonstrations given, a feature of the session being that nearly all the papers and demonstrations had been contributed by members. A discussion on the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill resulted in a resolution of support being sent to the Pharmaceutical Society. The social functions had all been successes, the attendance at the annual dinner being a record one. No competitions had been received for the medal of the Association or the Research prize offered by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. An essay received for the Essay prize was judged to be not of sufficient merit to warrant an award. The financial condition was good.

Mr. STROTHER presented the financial statement, which was satisfactory considering the slightly decreased receipts and extra expenses incurred through removal from Bloomsbury.

On the motion of Mr. PICKERING, seconded by Mr. STROTHER, it was resolved that :—

Members of the Association who leave London may retain all the privileges of members (except the right of attending the Réunion free) on payment of a modified subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum.

Mr. MORLEY said that country members should be understood to be those residing outside the London postal district. The SCRUTINEERS then gave the result of the voting for the new Council, with the result that the following were elected:—Messrs. Morley Taylor, Pearson, Robinson, Gamble, Hill, Strother, Cooper, Pickering, Hymans, Robins, Roe, Matthews, and Hamerton.

The PRESIDENT then read his

### VALEDICTORY ADDRESS,

in which he said that he would not weary them with an egotistical epitome of his own shortcomings, of which he could assure them he was fully aware, but would rather express his indebtedness to his colleagues for the way in

which they had strengthened his hand in guiding the business of the Association through another session. As they knew, a wave of correspondence had passed over the pharmaceutical press on the subject of a "union of chemists' assistants," and he was still of opinion that the only rational object of such a general union would be the prevention of unjust trading, for which object such a universal *esprit de corps* would be as necessary as it is impossible in these days of mutual suspicion and narrow pessimism. He was happy to say that, on the whole, the past session compared very favourably with previous ones, the communications read before the Association being mainly contributed by existing members. The blot on the escutcheon, he considered, had been the short-paper evenings, and he appealed to the members to contribute each his share in the scientific and practical work of the Association.

The following is the Association's

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1897-98.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance in hand	101 12 10	Rent ... ... ... 16 8 6
Subscriptions—		Proceedings ... ... 20 10 0
122 members ... 30 10 0		Stationery and Print- ing ... ... ... 7 5 0
47 patrons ... 24 13 6		Stamps ... ... ... 8 3 2
AdVERTISEMENTS ... 3 7 6		Refreshments ... ... 5 0 9
Dinner ... 5 0 1		Conversazione ... 17 16 0
Publication of reports 8 4 6		Expenses—
Rent of piano (Jan.— June, 1897) ... 1 5 0		Social Evenings ... 3 7 0
Sale of Proceedings... 0 5 0		Reporting ... ... 4 2 3
Donations—		Sundries ... ... 1 2 6
Allen & Hanburys (Limited) ... 1 1 0		Removing of Furni- ture... ... ... 0 9 0
Apollinaris Com- pany (Limited)... 2 2 0		Agreement (Atlas Club) ... ... ... 1 2 6
Barclay & Sons (Limited) ... 0 10 6		Reading-desk ... ... 0 7 6
Barron, Harveys & Co. ... 1 1 0		Post-box ... ... ... 1 1 0
Camwal ... 1 1 0		Die, C.A.A. ... ... 0 6 6
Corbyn, Stacey & Co. ... 2 2 0		Door-plate, C.A.A. ... 1 1 0
Curtis & Co. ... 1 1 0		Cinderellas ... ... 6 0 0
Davy, Hill, Yates & Hicks ... 1 1 0		
Evans, Lescher & Webb ... 1 1 0		
Harker, Stagg & Morgan ... 1 1 0		
Hearon, Squire & Francis ... 1 1 0		
Hodgkinson, Tre- acher & Clarke ... 1 1 0		
Hornet & Sons ... 1 1 0		
Idris & Co. (Limited) 1 1 0		
Ingram & Royle (Limited) ... 1 1 0		
Maw, Son & Thomp- son ... 1 1 0		
Meggeson & Co. ... 1 1 0		
Morson & Sons ... 1 1 0		
Sanger & Sons ... 1 1 0		
Savory & Moore ... 2 2 0		
Mr. H. Silverlock... 1 1 0		
Mr. W. Toogood ... 1 1 0		
Mr. W. Watson- Will ... 1 1 0		
Wright, Layman & Umney ... 1 1 0	94 2 8	Balance in hand ... 108 12 3
	<hr/> £202 14 11	<hr/> £202 14 11

Audited and found correct.

May 5, 1898.

(Signed) GILBERT SMITH,  
HAROLD LUMLEY.

A vote of thanks was given to the President for the manner in which he had discharged his duties during the session.

"I KEPT A SCRAP-BOOK containing thirty years' cuttings from the *C. & D.*, but it compared so badly with the 'Pharmaceutical Formulas' when I got it, that I put the scrap-book on the back of the fire. 'Pharmaceutical Formulas' is a grand book."—PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST. (173/23)

## Legal Reports.

### THE STORAGE OF BENZOLINE.

AT Birmingham Police Court, on May 5, the Frederick Crane Chemical Company, 22 Newhall Street, were summoned for storing a 40-gall. cask of benzoline upon their premises without having a licence. Evidence having been given by Inspector Garrett, Mr. Bradley, for the defendants, said his clients had committed the offence through inadvertence. There was no intention on their part of breaking the law, and a licence had now been applied for. The Bench imposed a fine of 5*l.* and costs.

### THE MEDICINE-STAMP ACT.

AT the Norton (Malton, Yorkshire) Petty Sessions on Saturday, John Spanton, chemist and druggist, of Norton, was summoned under the Medicine Stamp Act by the Inland Revenue authorities for selling a certain medicine in bottles not bearing the necessary Government-stamp. An inspector from Somerset House stated that the defendant sold a cough-mixture in bottles bearing a label which stated that the mixture was "a cure for coughs, colds, influenza, consumption, &c." Those words, it was contended, brought the mixture within the provisions of the Act. If the defendant had simply confined himself to the words "cough-mixture" he would not have been interfered with. The defendant stated that he had taken the precaution to submit his label to the local Excise officer before using it, and was given to understand that no stamp was necessary. The Bench eventually dismissed the case upon the defendant paying the costs.

### THE RUSSIAN SPRATT'S PATENT (LIMITED).

IN the Court of Appeal, on Monday, before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Rigby and Collins, the case of Johnson *v.* the Russian Spratt's Patent (Limited) came on for hearing, on appeal by the plaintiff from an order of Mr. Justice Stirling. Mr. Dunham appeared in support of the appeal, and said the question at issue was whether the un-called capital of a company at the time of the winding-up, was included in the expression "property of the company" in the debentures. In the court below the learned Judge held that he was bound by a decision of Lord Justice Chitty, who held that the un-called capital was not so included. His proposition was that the capital of a company un-called at the time of the winding-up was its property. The matter was one of importance, as, unless the debenture-holders, for whom he appeared, could lay hold of the un-called capital there would be nothing for them at all.

The Master of the Rolls: And if they do, I suppose, there will be nothing for the unsecured creditors?

Mr. Dunham said that was hardly so. The question was really between the first and second debenture holders. The latter had admittedly a charge upon the un-called capital.

After some further argument, the hearing was adjourned; and on Tuesday morning their Lordships, without calling upon the other side, dismissed the appeal, with costs.

### POISONOUS SHEEP-DIP.

AT Kells County Sessions, on April 26, Matthew Clarke sued George Cooney, registered druggist, Kells, for 26*l.* damages for the poisoning of one cow and one bull by a substance sold as sheep-dip to the plaintiff by the defendant.

Plaintiff deposed that on March 12 he sent to Mr. Cooney's establishment for a package of McDougall's sheep-dip for a cow and bull which were suffering from ringworm. As a result of the application of the substance sent, the cow (valued at 12*l.*) died, and the bull (value 14*l.*) was rendered useless.

Mr. Gilmore, V.S., deposed that the cow in his opinion died from blood-poisoning. He was aware that the dip was frequently used in similar cases, and in his opinion it should not be injurious.

Professor Tichborne deposed to having analysed the sheep-dip, and found it to contain 11.5 per cent. of arsenic.

The dip rubbed into an animal was as dangerous as if taken in the way of food. He thought some of McDougall's sheep-dip contained arsenic, but a box which he purchased in Dublin he found on examination to contain no arsenic.

Defendant, called, said he was in the hardware and drug business, and sold McDougall's sheep-dip, and also Cooper's. He did not remember the purchase of this sheep-dip, but if a person asked for McDougall's dip he would get it. He sold sheep-dip hourly, and he never had a complaint before. Cooper's was poisonous, and he only sold it for sheep. McDougall's dip was often made containing poison, and was used principally for sheep.

Another case was brought by William McCurtin against Mr. Cooney for 10*l.* damages, for the poisoning of two calves by a ringworm-paste supplied by defendant. Michael Smith, who made the purchase for Mr. McCurtin, deposed to having asked for 1*d.* worth of grocers' sulphurite. Having told him the purpose for which the sulphurite was required, Mr. Cooney declined to give it to him, but gave him instead ringworm-paste.

Professor Tichborne stated that he analysed the paste, and found that it contained 11.3 per cent. of arsenic.

The further hearing of the case was adjourned to Trim Quarter Sessions.

### COUNTY COURT CASES.

#### SPECULATION IN JUBILEE-SEATS.

AT Southwark County Court on Monday, before Judge Addison, Q.C., A. E. Bertie Smith, chemist, of Sussex Street, Warwick Square, Pimlico, and living at Holme Lodge, Waldenshaw Road, Forest Hill, S.E., was sued by a drayman named Chennell for 12*l.* 10*s.*, balance of rent alleged to be due for the hire of three rooms at 6 Queen's Buildings, Scovell Road, Southwark. Mr. Young, solicitor, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Ellis Hill, barrister, the defendant. Plaintiff's wife said she let the defendant her three rooms for thirty-six hours for 50*p.* He hired them to sub-let to other people to view the Jubilee procession. The agreement was that he should pay 5*l.* down, 20*p.* on May 15, and the balance on June 19. He had only paid 37*l.* 10*s.* On one occasion he gave her a cheque for 12*l.* 10*s.*, but he met her at the bank and would not allow her to cash it until she promised to lend him 2*l.* 10*s.* of the money. She handed him the amount and he agreed to pay her back double what she had given him. She had put down in a book every penny defendant had paid her. Defendant said he was formerly a wholesale chemist, but now carried on a retail-business. Just before the Jubilee he came home from India, where he had carried on business, and was led into the speculation in Jubilee-seats. Mr. Ellis Hill: I believe you had made what is called your "pile." (Laughter.) Defendant: Yes, I came home with some money. Continuing: He hired a large number of rooms and laid out some thousands of pounds, but the venture turned out a failure and he lost 1,500*l.* on the transaction. He had paid the plaintiff 49*l.* 10*s.*, besides which his wife had sold to plaintiff's wife clothes to the value of considerably more than 10*s.* in part-payment of the debt. The receipts were handed to his Honour, together with plaintiff's book, and it was found that plaintiff had failed to enter a sum of 10*l.* which she had received by cheque. The 2*l.* 10*s.* defendant declared was given him because he had lost so heavily. Several of his creditors had allowed him a rebate because of his ill-fortune. Eventually his Honour gave judgment for the defendant, with costs.

#### CLAIM FOR WAGES.

AT Peterborough County Court, on May 6, Edward Manning, bus-driver, sued Mr. Arthur Carlton, chemist, Long Causeway, Peterborough, for 1*l.* 18*s.*—one week's wages, and one week's wages in lieu of notice. Plaintiff said he entered defendant's service in February, at a wage of 1*l.* per week, and left on March 26. He asked for his wages on that date, but these were denied him; and he left at a moment's notice. Plaintiff returned on the following Monday, and gave defendant a week's notice. The reason why defendant would not pay him his wages was because he had been summoned for leaving his horse unattended. Defendant said plaintiff was in his employ as yardman at 18*s.* per week. Plaintiff's brother used to go with one of defendant's vans,

but as he stayed away from business one day defendant sent plaintiff with the van. Subsequently, in consequence of something which had come to his knowledge, defendant gave plaintiff notice to leave his employ. Judgment was given for defendant, with costs; but at the rising of the Court the Judge intimated that, on reconsidering the matter, he found that Manning was not discharged until the end of the week, and that he, therefore, considered he was entitled to receive that week's wages. He accordingly made an order for that amount.

#### DAMAGES FOR DENTAL MALTREATMENT.

At the Cardiff County Court on May 5, Mrs. Marion Fletcher sued Messrs. Goodman & Co., dentists, for 50*l.* as damages and compensation for personal injuries occasioned by defendants' negligence. Mr. J. Sankey, barrister, who appeared for the plaintiff, stated that on October 7 Mrs. Fletcher, attracted by the defendants' advertisements of "a complete set of teeth for a guinea," visited their surgery in Queen Street, Cardiff. They cut away a large number of her teeth as a preliminary to the insertion of the guinea set, and she paid a deposit of 4*s.* The next day she had more teeth done, paying a further 17*s.* When they had cut or broken off twenty-two teeth they told her that neither a one-guinea nor a three-guinea set would suit her, but that it would be necessary for her to have a five-guinea set. After she had paid four guineas a set was put in, and she went from time to time to Messrs. Goodman, who only made slight alterations. She became unable to masticate her food, and was compelled to consult Dr. Mullin, upon whose advice she went to Mr. Quinlan, dentist, and he found it necessary to extract twenty-two stumps, his services running up a bill of 25*l.* Dr. Mullin's bill was 10*l.*, and the plaintiff had paid 5*l.* 5*s.* to the defendants; so that her claim left only 10*l.* for compensation.

The plaintiff bore out her counsel's statement, and said a man named Stephens attended her. After looking at her mouth he pronounced it to be in a very bad state, and said her mouth was of the shape which rendered a five-guinea set necessary. He told her he could cut the teeth off, and fit new ones on to the top. He cut away all the top teeth except one and all the other stumps he snapped off with something like pincers, the bits flying all over the room. He then dabbed something into her mouth to take an impression for the new set.

Dr. Mullin gave evidence in detail, and said the treatment to which the plaintiff had been subjected was most improper from a medical and dental point of view. Mr. Quinlan, dental surgeon, said when he examined the plaintiff on November 23 he found that the remains of her teeth were bathed in matter, and that a number of sound teeth had been broken off. Her mouth was in a shocking condition, and it was the worse case he had ever seen. He eventually extracted twenty-two stumps for her.

Mr. Stephens, who elected to give evidence, said he was a dental mechanic, not a qualified dentist. He admitted having performed the operation on the plaintiff. [Judge Owen: Call it butchery.] Witness added that plaintiff was afterwards seen by their qualified dentist in attendance, Mr. C. Morgan. Witness denied that he splintered the teeth. He cut them off with cutters, and not one so dealt with was sound. He never cut or removed a tooth unless a patient desired it.

The Judge: Did you take a model of the mouth immediately after?

Witness: Every dentist does that.

The Judge: What! when the gums are inflamed?

Witness: They were not inflamed. In answer to further questions, he said the set put in was "temporary." Mrs. Fletcher never made any complaint to them. The fee of a guinea was not meant to cover the cost of a complete set of teeth for the whole mouth, and this was made plain on their advertisement-cards.

Mr. C. Morgan said he did not see the plaintiff until some time after the operation. Her mouth was then in a filthy condition, but he attributed this to her want of care in keeping the plate clean. Witness was the manager in charge of the Cardiff business. He had been connected with the company for eighteen months, but his registered address was Wimbledon, where he had an interest in a practice. He paid himself his salary out of the takings at Cardiff.

The Judge said he knew of no more shocking case of maltreatment, and he was only sorry he could not give judgment for a larger amount. He did not believe the evidence of the man Stephens. He gave judgment for the full amount, with costs.

#### COCA WINE AND PUBLICANS.

In the Westminster County Court, on May 10, Holloway's Wine Company sued a Putney publican named Cook for 2*l.* 6*s.* for wine supplied. The plaintiffs said an out-and-out order was given by the defendant, but he alleged that the order was given on condition that if it was not sold they would take it back, and as soon as the invoice was received he wrote to them that the order was given on sale or return. In answer to his Honour, the Secretary to the plaintiff company said this was not the Holloway's pills people. The wine was medicated, and was an appetising tonic. The letters of the defendant had been mislaid. Defendant said the traveller was a young beginner, and it was out of charity that the order was given. He had sold only one half-bottle, and that he was willing to pay for. His Honour said he should take care of himself, and not give orders out of charity. There would be a nonsuit, without costs.

#### SELLING A DISPENSING-SCREEN.

THE plaintiff in the action reported last week under the above heading asks us to correct certain errors in that report. His name is Henry Govier (not Grovier). He is not a furniture-dealer, nor does he deal in secondhand fixtures of any sort. He had not done a great deal of work for the defendant.

#### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

##### OLIVER'S OIL FOR OLIVE OIL.

At Marlborough Police Court, on May 7, Albert Beaver, of Avebury, was summoned for selling olive oil certified by the public analyst to contain only 5 per cent., if any of olive oil. For the defence, it was argued that the oil, which was commonly known as Oliver's sweet oil, was not, as described in the summons, an article of food. It was used for greasing machinery, hair-oil, and other purposes. The Bench imposed a fine of 2*s.* 6*d.* and 8*s.* costs.

#### Bankruptcy Report.

*Re* TIMOTHY LOCKETT, 34 Eyre Street, now residing at 26 Upper Albert Road, Heeley, formerly Manufacturing Chemist.

A MEETING of the creditors of this debtor was held at the office of the Official Receiver, Sheffield, on May 10. The debtor stated that he owed to unsecured creditors 11*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and had no assets, but had paid his solicitor 13*l.* 10*s.* towards the cost of his petition. He commenced business in Manchester, in 1895, with a partner named Lever, and had then a capital of 300*l.* The partnership was dissolved in November, 1896. He then came to Sheffield and commenced business, but was sold up five months ago. The estate was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.

#### Deed of Arrangement.

Ratcliffe, Charles Hubert, 6 Shad Street, and 317 Padham Road, Burnley, mineral-water manufacturer. Trustee, George Farrer, 21 and 23 Nicholas Street, Burnley, accountant. Dated May 3; filed May 9. Secured creditors, 30*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; liabilities unsecured, 22*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; estimated net assets, 30*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors :-

	£	s.	d.
Clayton & Jowett, Liverpool .. .. ..	16	0	0
Eagles, W., Salford .. .. ..	15	0	0
Financial Advance Company, Burnley .. .. ..	36	0	0
Harrison, A. (Limited), Liverpool .. .. ..	11	0	0
Hedges, A., Burnley .. .. ..	12	0	0
Maden, H., & Sons, Burnley .. .. ..	19	0	0
Nall, J., & Co., (Limited), Penistone .. .. ..	13	0	0
Whitman, R., Burnley .. .. ..	10	0	0

## The Galenical Preparations of the New British Pharmacopœia.

By JOHN C. UMNEY, F.C.S.

### SYRUPS.

Of all the classes of galenical preparations in the new British Pharmacopœia none is, I think, so "behind the times" as the syrups. Not only are the inclusions and omissions, in my opinion, not by any means wise, but the processes in some instances leave much to be desired. Three syrups have been included which were official in the 1885 Pharmacopœia, for which there is practically no demand, and which might very well have been omitted from the new work. Those of orange-flower and rose are practically never employed, and that of hemidesmus is, so far as I know, only employed in one of the leading London hospitals. It is true that one of the physicians of that hospital is on the committee of the Medical Council "which has been entrusted with the supervision of the preparation of the Pharmacopœia," but the value of the preparation is extremely doubtful, and, so far as I know, is not founded upon any published researches on the drug.

The new syrups include at least one of considerable importance—Easton's syrup, under the designation of *syrupus ferri phosphatis cum quininâ et strychninâ*. It does seem strange that whilst including this syrup the committee did not see the necessity of including formulae for compound syrup of phosphates and compound syrup of hypophosphites, corresponding more or less closely to the preparations sold under the names of their originators, Parrish and Fellows. It is true that neither of the formulae published by the British Pharmaceutical Conference Formulary Committee for the preparations is quite identical with the original syrups, still formulae have been published for the syrup very closely corresponding with Parrish's, and also for a neutral syrup of hypophosphites not very dissimilar to the much-advertised preparation. Moreover, it is not clear upon what grounds the committee decided not to recognise the inclusion of these syrups, even if held to be in one case a proprietary medicine, for imitations of certain such compounds—such as *liquor picis carbonis* to represent the original *liquor carbonis detergens*—have been made in the new work. The inclusion of formulae for the preparations in question would undoubtedly have led to very much greater uniformity in the syrups sold under these names, and this is especially desirable in the case of the former (Parrish's).

No one will regret the omissions of *syrup. ferri subchlor.* and *syrup. mori*. No one on this side of the border quite understood the reason of the inclusion of the former in the Addendum, 1890, as there has been practically no demand for the preparation outside of Edinburgh.

One syrup will, however, be missed—*syrup. papaveris*—and although it was not extensively prescribed—as is evidenced by the number of medical men who, in response to the invitation of the British Medical Association, stated that they never prescribed it—yet it is largely used as a household remedy, and it is in these medicines that there is great desirability for uniformity.

Turning to the processes for the syrups generally, it is to be regretted that in the majority of cases they follow so closely on the lines of the previous Pharmacopœia. The syrups are denser in almost all cases than those of the United States, French, and German Pharmacopœias.

*Specific Gravities.*—It is unfortunate that sp. grs. have not been included in every monograph for the syrups. Sp. gr.

forms a very ready means of checking the correctness of syrups, and is a constant which can be determined with such readiness that it is an omission which should not have occurred.

*Doses.*—It would have been preferable had no doses at all been affixed to the flavouring-syrups. It will be seen by reference to the Pharmacopœia that the doses of flavouring-syrups, such as aromatic syrup, syrup of orange, syrup of orange-flowers, &c., are stated as  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 fl. dr., whilst syrup of chloral, syrup of codeine, &c., are stated as  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 fl. dr.

*Simple Syrup.*—The same proportions of sugar and water are prescribed for this syrup as in the previous Pharmacopœia, and the same method of preparation, the product having a sp. gr. of 1.330. It has a greater proportion of sugar, and consequently a higher sp. gr. than any of the syrups of the United States, French, or German Pharmacopœias. The sp. grs. of the syrups are as under:—

	Percentage of Sugar by Weight	Sp. Gr.
British Pharmacopœia, 1898 ...	66.6	1.33
United States Pharmacopœia ...	64.5	1.317
French Pharmacopœia ...	64.3	1.32 (about)
German Pharmacopœia ...	60	1.290

In the United States Pharmacopœia directions are given for the preparation of syrups in the cold by percolation of coarsely-powdered sugar, and the method is one that might have been included with advantage in the new British Pharmacopœia. It gives a syrup which has, of course, no greater sp. gr., but the viscosity appears to be somewhat increased when solution is effected in the cold.

*Syrup. Calcii Lactophosph.*—The formula is a convenient one, and is practically taken from the United States Pharmacopœia, with the substitution of the corresponding proportion of phosphoric acid, sp. gr. 1.500, for the similar quantity of stronger phosphoric acid of the United States Pharmacopœia.

*Syrup. Ferri Iodidi.*—Considerable alteration has been made in the strength of this syrup. It now contains 10 per cent. by volume of ferrous iodide—that is to say, 11 minims of the syrup contain 1 gr. This strength is greater than that of the German and French Pharmacopœias, but not as great as that of the United States Pharmacopœia, which contains 10 per cent. by weight, the German and French Pharmacopœias containing only 5 per cent. by weight. The sp. gr. of the syrup of the new Pharmacopœia is stated to be from 1.380 to 1.387, and the product falls within these figures. The proportion of sugar contained in the stronger syrup of the United States Pharmacopœia is considerably less, and its final sp. gr. only 1.353. It is too early yet to say whether the syrup of so great density as that prescribed by the British Pharmacopœia will keep satisfactorily in very low temperatures, as the more dilute syrup of the previous Pharmacopœia frequently showed signs of crystallisation under certain conditions.

For the first time a method is given of determining the quantity of ferrous iodide in the syrup. Many processes have been put forward for the ready estimation of this syrup, and the particular one now included is a slight modification of that proposed by Kubel. The process is not by any means the most satisfactory that could have been devised, but the modification of it is, in my opinion, an improvement upon the process as set out by its originator. The neutralisation with nitric acid of the solution from which the iron has been precipitated, before titration with nitrate of silver, renders

the indication of the end of precipitation much sharper than it is if the solution is not first neutralised and the excess of carbonate of sodium is present. The most satisfactory process that I have tried is one devised by one of my assistants, Mr. R. S. Swinton, which has already been referred to in a paper on the separation of the halogens.\*

*Syrup. Ferri Phosph.*—It was anticipated that this syrup would be prepared by the solution of iron wire in concentrated phosphoric acid instead of by precipitation of solution of sulphate of iron with phosphate of sodium, but the principal point of importance is the very considerable reduction in the acidity of the preparation. It will be noticed that the quantity of phosphoric acid present has been reduced by more than one-third. The preparation is undoubtedly very much more palatable, and an improvement in every respect, although it must not be forgotten that in dispensing medicines prescribed before this Pharmacopœia was official a considerable difference may result where free phosphoric acid was of service in keeping other substances, such as quinine, in solution. The sp. gr. of the syrup is not stated in the Pharmacopœia, but I find it to be about 1·270, and there should be no trouble through crystallisation of a syrup of this sp. gr.

*Syrup. Ferri Phosphatis cum Quininâ et Strychninâ.*—This title is doubtless intended to indicate the fact that the quinine and strychnine are not added to the syrup as phosphates, although they may exist in that form in the finished syrup. As regards acidity, the preparation is practically identical with the modified formula of the B.P.C. Formulary. It will be remembered that in the first formula published by the B.P.C. committee the acidity was very considerably greater, but, acting upon the suggestions of many workers on the subject, the acidity was reduced to its present low point. The investigations of Coull on the various phosphates of quinine showed that there was a difference, amounting to 3 per cent. in actual quinine value, between the phosphates sold by English and German manufacturers, and the result of this observation is the preparation of the syrup with sulphate of quinine, which is practically constant in composition. I think the present syrup will be found to keep very well, especially if not exposed to the light.

*Syrup. Limonis.*—The finished preparation is an advance upon that of the previous Pharmacopœia. The acidity of the preparation is not interfered with to any extent, although the quantity of the juice has been increased by about 3 per cent. The preparation of a strong tincture of lemon-peel, two fluid parts of which are equal to one part of peel as a flavouring for the syrup, is a decided improvement, although it may not be a very convenient or economical operation for the retail pharmacist. The sp. gr. of the syrup varies between 1·290 and 1·3.

*Syrup. Pruni Virg.*—The process is that of the B.P.C. Formulary, and differs from that of the United States Pharmacopœia in the addition of the glycerin at the end of the process instead of for the maceration of the bark in the first instance. The sp. gr. of the finished product is 1·300.

*Syrup. Rhei.*—The formula for this syrup (practically that of the 1885 Pharmacopœia) is, in my opinion, highly unsatisfactory, and there is also an inconsistency about the method of preparation of this syrup and that of senna as compared with the concentrated liquors of the two drugs now official. The syrup of rhubarb is directed to be prepared by the percolation of the rhubarb and coriander with a dilute alcohol (practically 20 per cent. by volume), and evaporation of this percolate to a considerably reduced bulk

By this means practically the whole of the spirit is dissipated, and what little odour may be extracted from the coriander is lost. It is true that this is not very much, as the solvent is too weak to extract any considerable quantity of the aroma of the fruit. It would have been infinitely better to have taken a quantity of the concentrated liquor equal to 2 oz.—which should be 4 fl. oz if the rhubarb were exhausted by the official process for that liquor, but that it does not appear to be—and to this have added the requisite quantity of coriander oil dissolved in 90-per-cent. alcohol, with the addition of such a quantity of water as would make a 20-per-cent. alcohol. That is to say, a formula somewhat as under :—

Liquor rhei conc.	...	...	...	4 fl. oz.
Alcohol (90-per-cent.)	...	...	...	2½ oz.
OI. coriandri	...	...	...	5 min.
Aq. destill.	...	...	...	7½ oz.

In this mixed liquor the sugar in the form of powder can be dissolved readily without practically any heat. The syrup, as prepared by the process now official, has scarcely any odour, contains no spirit, has a sp. gr. of about 1·290, and shows every indication that it will not keep by any means perfectly.

*Syrup. Scillæ.*—The proportion of sugar has been reduced in accordance with numerous suggestions, so that the sp. gr. is now about 1·325 instead of 1·345. The crystallisation of the syrup of the previous Pharmacopœia was the source of very considerable annoyance to pharmacists.

*Syrup. Senna.*—This formula, as has been already stated, is inconsistent if viewed in conjunction with the concentrated liquor. There appears to be no reason why the senna should not have been extracted for the concentrated liquor by the same solvent as is now directed, and, in my opinion, it would have been better had both of the preparations been made by repercolation with 20-per-cent. alcohol. This solvent appears to yield a highly satisfactory syrup, and although the sp. gr. of the final product will vary according to the precautions adopted for losing as little as possible of the alcohol when heating to a temperature of 180° F., the sp. gr. will be found in any case to be not higher than 1·275, and if the process be conducted in a still and the spirit returned to the product after heating to a temperature of 180° F., the product will have a sp. gr. of about 1·255 to 1·260, and the preparation may be said to resemble an elixir rather than a syrup.

*Syrup. Zingiberis.*—The omission of the strong tincture of ginger from the new British Pharmacopœia, for which it is extremely difficult to find a reason, has necessitated the amplification of the monograph for this syrup so as to include the preparation of a strong tincture of ginger, 1 in 2, first of all, which is to be used for dilution with syrup in the proportion of 1 to 19—that is to say, slightly stronger than the preparation of the previous Pharmacopœia.

## New Books.

Bastian, H. C. *A Treatise on Aphasia and other Speech Defects.* Illus. 9½ x 5½. Pp. 374. 15s. (Lewis.)

Burke, J. *On the Change of Absorption produced by Fluorescence.* Phil. Trans., A. 1893. Vol. 191. Pp. 85-104. 1s. (Dulau.)

Gill, A. H. *Short Handbook of Oil-analysis.* (Philadelphia) London. 7s. 6d.

Hodson, Jane. *How to become a Trained Nurse.* Illus. Cr. 8vo. (New York) London. 10s. 6d.

Lankester, E. *Half-hours with the Microscope.* Coloured plates. 20th ed. 6½ x 4¼. Pp. 150. 4s. (Gibbings.)

*Proceedings of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, 1893-97.* No. xiii. 9 x 5½. 2s. 6d. (Hayes.)

\* We have a note on this subject by Mr. Swinton in type, which we hope to print next week.—ED. C. & D.

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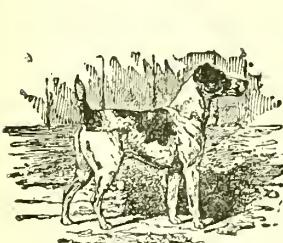
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Editorial

Comments

## PHARMACOPÆIA REVISION,

THE new British Pharmacopœia should now be in the hands of all who take an active interest in the art of pharmacy and the progress of medicine, and now is the time, therefore, to consider and decide on three points:—

*First*, as to the frequency of revision.

*Second*, as to who should be the revisers.

*Third*, as to the scope of the Pharmacopœia.

On the first point, it has frequently been urged that the revision of the B.P. should, like the U.S.P., be decennial, on the ground that standards become antiquated before ten years have elapsed. That is really the only argument for revision which has been raised during the past decennium, and we question if any other would ever be mentioned did a new Pharmacopœia not come out, for all are eager to alter as science dictates, and improve as experience directs. During the past fortnight, however, wholesalers and retailers alike have been, looking at the matter from another point of view, declaring the change to be a nuisance. Is it so? Do the changes involved in the introduction of new and altered preparations entail an expense, when spread over ten years, which is material to the chemist and druggist? Or is it not the case that a new B.P. gives smart men an excellent opportunity for advertisement? The trade shou'd

consider these and other points as to frequency of revision now, and, in order to make some sort of record, we shall be glad if those interested would send us their opinions on post-cards during the present month.

The second point—viz., who should be the revisers—is a very serious one. Last week the Treasurer of the Pharmaceutical Society expressed the opinion, at the Pharmaceutical Council table, that pharmacists should have a statutory and authoritative position in the revision of the work, and to this no dissenting voice was raised, although representatives of the Society have by invitation shared in the revision of the new work. Last week in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST Mr. F. W. Fletcher urged that before the next B.P. is published the question would have to be decided, Should the medical profession have a share in the revision of the B.P.? Both views were pertinent, and we should not forget that Irish pharmacists allege that they were not even asked to take part in the revision. It is for pharmacists now to judge whether the Pharmacopœia is a work which truly reflects the present condition of British pharmacy. But, whatever their opinions, these facts have to be borne in mind: (1) The General Medical Council alone is empowered to revise the Pharmacopœia; (2) pharmacists were invited to assist them on this occasion, but they had no voice whatever in deciding what should go into the B.P., and, as a matter of fact, their recommendations were often set aside; (3) the revision of the B.P. in any other authoritative manner than that which at present obtains will require a new Act of Parliament.

The third point which the trade should take into consideration is perhaps too wide to deal with now. It involves, for example, the questions: Should the British Pharmacopœia include names for articles which were never in it, such as sweet spirit of nitre and milk of sulphur? Should it be more comprehensive of the *materia medica* of the present day? Is it necessary to revise a Pharmacopœia from beginning to end every time—cannot we leave the old alone, and have the new and needful changes in periodical supplements? To these matters attention should also be directed, and it is for those engaged in pharmacy to let their wishes be known.

#### CANADIAN TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

As is well known, the Canadian Government now admit imports from Great Britain on a tariff  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. lower than those from nations which do not reciprocate or which have not treaty rights, and that from and after August 1, 1898, this preferential advantage will be increased to 25 per cent., while at the same time the treaties will expire which give other nations the right to share in this benefit. That these circumstances offer a great opening for the development of British trade with the Dominion will be evident from the following statistics:—

In the year ending June 30, 1897, Canada imported merchandise to the value of \$114,542,415 (nearly 23,000,000*l.* worth), and exported goods to the value of \$134,457,703 (nearly 27,000,000*l.*). Of these total imports Great Britain furnished \$29,401,188 worth, while the United States supplied \$57,023,342 worth. Germany supplied goods to the amount of \$6,493,368, France to the value of \$2,601,351, and Belgium, China, Japan, Spanish countries, and the West Indies contributed merchandise in each case of values between one and two million dollars.

Although Canada buys from the United States almost twice as much as she buys from the United Kingdom, she sells to the United Kingdom her products to the value of

\$77,227,502, and to the United States products to the value of \$41,933,792.

To give an idea of the possibilities of British trade with Canada we take the item of "drugs, dyes, chemicals, and medicines" imported into Canada during the year ending June 30, 1897. The imports of these goods from Great Britain were valued at \$868,691, those from the United States at \$1,429,038, and those from all other countries at \$620,024. This shows that in this particular branch of trade alone Great Britain with the tariff advantage in her favour has a good opportunity of adding anything between a quarter of a million and half a million sterling to her trade.

#### IPECACUANHA CONCENTRATION.

A MONOPOLY has been established in Rio ipecacuanha. That is practically the outcome of the careful manipulation of their stocks by the importers of this indispensable drug. At no time have they been so carful as during the past winter in doling out supplies. Occasionally there seemed to be superabundance of offerings, but as buyers would not go up to the sellers' prices they were quietly withdrawn, and more than one broker urged buyers not to let the opportunity slip. "I can assure you, gentlemen," said Mr. Samuel Figgis two months ago, "you will have to pay more money for ipecac.; take it now, before it goes to half a sovereign." The prophecy is near realisation. Mr. Figgis's firm were unable to put forward more than one bale of Rio ipecac. this week, and it is said that all the rest of the drug of direct import is in the hands of Messrs. Lewis & Peat, but this may be the importers' way of working. The immediate result of this manipulation is that on Wednesday a buyer was content to take ten bales of the root (it was a quite ordinary quality) at 9*s.* per lb., which is equivalent to half-a-guinea per lb. for good picked Rio root. The advance in price is said to be justified by the low stock of the drug in London. At the end of April there were only 229 bales known to be in the warehouses, and since then the stock has been reduced by about fifty bales. We dealt so fully with the whole subject recently, when commenting upon the special information which we had received from the Matto Grosso district, where Rio ipecac. is collected, that it is unnecessary for us to go into the matter again further than to say that the exportation of ipecacuanha from Brazil is in the hands of the ring who dole it out to London purchasers in a dribbling sort of way, and as they have at the moment a monopoly, they can run it up to any price they choose. Their upward tactics have been favoured by the recent large exportations to the United States and other foreign parts, which have taken from eighty to a hundred bales during the past fortnight. The temporary indifference to Cartagena ipecac. has also favoured them, but it is almost certain that the Cartagena root will be bought freely should the Rio attain a prohibitive price. Some relief may be obtained in this manner, and there may be second-hand stock somewhere, but it cannot be much, while it is too uncertain a quantity to depend upon.

#### THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

IN response to our request for information concerning this firm, and their methods of business, we have had lengthy communications from nine chemists in localities varying from the neighbourhood of London to the North of Ireland. In our paragraph last week we mentioned that four chemists who were threatened with county court actions by the firm had written to us. In one of these cases the plaintiffs had delivered almanacs for 1898 in March, and in two other

cases they had not delivered at all, and yet were demanding payment.

The method adopted by the company is to offer to print for chemists almanacs at 7s. 6d. per 100, to recommend them to get advertisements from wholesale houses and patent-medicine proprietors, and to take 60 per cent. of the revenue thus obtained. It should be added that they gave advice and assistance in this business of getting advertisements. The temptation held out is that by merely writing a few letters enough advertisements will be obtained to ensure getting the almanacs for nothing, if even a profit is not secured. There is nothing illegitimate in this, of course, and we do not suggest that the business has not been carried out satisfactorily in some instances. We asked, however, for experiences satisfactory or otherwise, and the nine replies received this week are all very much "otherwise." One correspondent (173/13) says he ordered 500 almanacs for 37s. 6d. If he got any advertisements he was to have half the amount realised. He never tried for any, and told the company to print the almanacs without advertisements. They sent an account, but no almanacs, and on April 20 sent an impudent letter threatening a county court action, adding, "We know our ground, and the views of judges on the sacredness of contracts." 172/70 gives us some details which he got from an advertiser; but these are given in confidence. He himself has had unsatisfactory dealings with the company. 171/41 ordered 2,000, and was to ask 12s. 6d. per page. Only one advertiser out of forty applied to would pay cash; of the rest, most refused altogether, and a few others offered to advertise if goods to the amount of four or five times the value of the advertisement were taken. The chemist, therefore, countermanded the order for the almanacs. The company refused to cancel it, and about the middle of January sent him proofs of the covers, and on April 18 a bill for 7s. 10s., but no almanacs. In another case (174/13) we are told that the representative showed almanacs of other chemists pretending that his firm had printed them—a representation which afterwards turned out untrue. This chemist states that the company charged him over 13l. for 500 almanacs, making up the account by charging him 10s. 6d. per page for his own matter. Another (173/26) says they offered him three pages at 2s. 6d. He agreed; they put in five pages, and only allow him 2s. 6d. on the lot. We have not space to give more examples now; but all are of the same character. In most cases complaints are made of the absence of replies to letters.

Several of our correspondents ask us to advise them specifically. We advise them all to refuse to pay claims unless the contract has been strictly carried out; and certainly not to pay when no almanacs have been delivered. In the event of anyone being actually summoned, this note should be shown to the Judge; and it will at least ensure that he will scrutinise the claim very closely. Except what we have heard from chemists, we have no knowledge of the firm in question, and can have no purpose in commenting on them except to save other possible customers from annoyance.

We have published two reports of actions brought by these people against chemists. One appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of May 13, 1895, and was an action brought at the Southampton County Court against a chemist at Sutton Coldfield for 6l. 12s. 7d. for balance of account for printing 500 almanacs. The defence was that the plaintiffs' traveller guaranteed that the advertisements would cover the cost of printing; but the plaintiffs now claimed for printing his advertisements, and also inserted some vulgar ones. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs. The other report appeared in the C. & D. of July 17, 1897, and referred to an action, also

heard at the Southampton County Court, brought against a chemist at Goole for 4l. 4s. 8d., the defendant paying 3l. In this case the plaintiffs said they had inserted certain advertisements not ordered by the defendant, because he had not supplied matter for the pages. They told the Judge that they had only had one action defended in seven years, which was surely good evidence for them. "Nothing of the kind," answered Judge Gye; "it seems to show that people do not know their rights. You canvass for the work, and receive instructions, and then do not follow them." He found for the defendant, and allowed expenses.

#### BRITISH TRADE.

THE optimist has a splendid field for his talent in the Board of Trade Returns for April. The United Kingdom bought from the world in that month at the rate of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  million pounds' worth of goods per day—altogether 40,246,716l.—and sold a little more than half a million pounds' worth per day (17,496,011l. in the month) of her own produce and manufactures, and 6,139,253l. worth of imported goods. So the account for the month stands thus:—

Cr.	£
Foods, raw materials, and manufactured articles imported ... ... ...	British produce and manufactures exported ... ... ...
	17,496,011
	Imported goods exported ... ... ...
	6,139,253
	British credit to balance ... ... ...
	16,611,452
	<hr/> £40,246,716
	<hr/> £40,246,716

During the same period we imported 5,948,806l. in gold and silver, and exported 3,559,567l. only; and this monthly statement is not extraordinary; it is the usual thing, and it is the evidence of the vast colonial and foreign wealth of the nation.

The month's report also contains accounts of the trade of the first quarter of the year for each foreign country and British possession. These are exceedingly interesting accounts, and anyone who has a liking for statistics should invest 6d. in the Returns in order to see how numerous and various are the quarters from which we draw our supplies and to which we send our manufactures. We can only deal with some of the more striking figures in this note. And first, as to imports during the quarter January-March. The United States is an easy first, with supplies to us valued at a total of 37,066,547l.; all the British possessions together (there is a page of them) make the next largest contribution—viz., 22,704,579l.; then comes France, with 13,099,232l.; Germany and Holland, each with nearly 7,000,000l. (German exports reach us largely through Holland); Belgium next, with over 5,000,000l.; Spain, with 3,476,878l.; Egypt only 200,000l. behind that, but Russia before both, with 3,642,875l.; then Denmark, 2,885,244l.; Argentine, 1,738,690l.; and Brazil, 1,438,471l. The lowest entry on the list is 50l. from Honduras (not British). The whole account is eloquent of John Bull's non-dyspeptic condition, for eatables and drinkables make the bulk of the imports. It is instructive to turn to the exports for the quarter, which *in toto* touch on 57 $\frac{7}{10}$  millions, compared with 119 millions of imports. Our colonies bought 21,211,002l. worth from us—i.e., only 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  million less than they sent us, and only fifteen millions less than all the rest of the world put together. The Australasian colonies, with their handful of population compared to the United States, buy more from us yearly than the whole of the U.S.A.; Canada buys almost half as much; and British South Africa is scarcely a million behind Cousin Jonathan,

whose purchases amount to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions per quarter. Germany is a better customer to us than the United States, for she buys close upon five million pounds' worth of our goods quarterly. France has nearly four millions, Holland and Belgium over two, and those who total over a million per quarter are Italy, Egypt, China, Japan, Brazil, and the Argentine. The figures demonstrate once more the value of our colonies. Leaving out India, with its millions of poor inhabitants, we find that Australasia, Canada, and Africa (including Egypt) do trade with us in buying and selling greater than that of the United States or than the whole of Europe, and with only a trifling balance between the buying and selling. The moral is that we should push our trade in these directions, without neglecting those foreign countries from which we draw so much of our supplies of food and raw materials. The United States is our most uncertain customer, and we fear that those who hold allegiance to the star-spangled banner do not quite realise that they have during recent years adopted a policy which, if persisted in, will drive away their best customer. We cannot go on buying wheat and meat from any nation which takes only about a tenth of their value in kind. And that is what the United States is doing. There are few branches of our manufactures exported to U.S.A. which do not show diminution. Chemicals interest us most, and we observe in this section that in April only 93,851 cwt. of alkali was exported to the United States, against 242,749 cwt. in April, 1896, and 258,963 cwt. in April, 1897. It may be supposed that war accounts for that, but it happens that there was a slight increase in the exports of bleaching-materials, which, so far, the U.S.A. has not been able to manufacture economically. The fall in alkali-exports to the United States has been going on for years, owing to the manufacture of the material in that country, and we are now close to the vanishing-point.

#### MR. CROSS'S APOLOGIA.

The member for Camlachie has addressed a lengthy communication to the Highland Agricultural Society in defence of his opposition to the Pharmacy Bill, and has secured the cordial support of that influential body. There was at first a little disposition to cheek Mr. Cross's statements, but it was ultimately agreed to support him first, and inquire afterwards. It was the allegation that bawbees were in danger that secured the unanimity. The Pharmacy Act, says Mr. Cross, actually restricts the sale of poisonous sheep-dips, insecticides, and weed-killers to chemists, who only part with them at "enormous profits." To limit the sale of grains of arsenic is a perfectly proper proceeding; but, behold, they are trying to check the sale of ounces! What a shameful monopoly! Let nobody but chemists sell arsenic under its proper name, certainly; but if I invent a compound of it, give it a pretty name, make it look and taste like butter-seotch, who shall dare to interpose? That is seriously Mr. Cross's argument, and the baronets and clergymen who compose the Highland Agricultural Society agree with the M.P., though they think his allegations can hardly be in accordance with fact. The Camlachie statesman can hardly be aware how feverishly the British Parliament demanded a Sale of Poisons Act, when there was none on the Statute-book, and unless he can establish beyond all question his suggestion that chemists are using the Act as a monopoly, bringing them "enormous profits," he will find it very difficult to get anything like a moiety of his fellow legislators to consent to the abandonment of a law which has been declared scores of times on judicial authority to be a most useful measure.

#### HYDROGEN AND HELIUM LIQUEFIED.

According to Professor W. Ramsay, hydrogen was liquefied by Olzewski, of Cracow, two years ago. We mentioned the

fact at the time, and from the physical factors which the Polish experimentalist had determined, Professor James Dewar has insisted that the liquefaction was theoretical, because, he says, as soon as hydrogen is liquefied it becomes gaseous again. However, on Tuesday he succeeded in producing the liquefied gas at the Royal Institution, and exhibited it to Lord Rayleigh, and laid the particulars before the Royal Society on Thursday afternoon. He produced the liquefied gas by the wincglassful, by a process which would equally have produced a pailful had the requisite supply of pure hydrogen been forthcoming. The boiling-point of the liquid is about  $-240^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Some conception of the degree of cold attained may be gathered from the fact that a tube closed at the lower end, when immersed in the liquid, was almost instantaneously filled with solid air. The density of the liquid far exceeds that arrived at by Olzewski, which is the best support that Professor Dewar has yet given to his assertion that Olzewski's figures were theoretical. Helium was also liquefied on Tuesday by the use of the liquid hydrogen. Its boiling-point appears to lie not very far from that of hydrogen itself.

#### "THE MEDICINE-MAN" AT THE LYCEUM.

A fiendish scientist who seeks to avenge himself on the human race generally because he was crossed in love in his youth is a character which seems to offer some stage possibilities; but Sir Henry Irving's attempt in "The Medicine-man" to represent such a personage as exercising a subtle and irresistible influence over men and women in Mayfair and Whitechapel alike is surely a dismal failure. Through five weary acts the famous actor strides about the stage, declaring to one and another that he is the great Dr. Tregenna, that he has discovered the secrets of the brain, that by the force of his will he can control rebellious brutes, and that he is using his subjects for the purposes of his experiments. He fixes people with his eye, he makes sarcastic speeches to them, he clasps his hand to his forehead and says, "Ah, ah," and generally conducts himself so unpleasantly that the sympathy of the audience would certainly be with anybody who would tell him how insufferable he is in either East-end or West-end society. The play requires that Dr. Tregenna should be a man of great scientific acquirements and possessed of a wonderful will-power: Sir Henry Irving presents a sneering charlatan and nothing more. It must be admitted that the authors do not render much assistance to the actors. The characters are all gloomy, the plot is impossible, and the dialogue is commonplace. Stagey speeches and incoherent gestures may seem a natural setting for romantic dramas of the middle ages; but they utterly destroy any sense of illusion when associated with a modern physician in a frock-coat, or when a dock-labourer adapts his entrances and exits to slow music. The play is announced to run to the end of July: without the social prestige of Sir Henry Irving's reputation it would hardly exist for a week.

#### THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

At the annual meeting of the Imperial Institute, held last week under the chairmanship of Lord Herschell, the Chairman gave an interesting account of the important work which is now being carried out in the Intelligence and Scientific and Technical Departments, and brought before the meeting a number of weighty illustrations of the high appreciation of this work by mercantile houses, manufacturers, and colonial authorities. In the annual report of the fifth year of the Institute the important statement was made that a public commercial news-room, very completely equipped with commercial and official publications, had been opened in connection with the collections of the Institute, and that steps were in contemplation for establishing a City branch of the information department of the Institute, to which this public news-room would probably be transferred.

It is quite likely that such a development of the resources of the Institute would have a beneficial effect on its fortunes. The organisation of the Imperial Institute is capable of doing great service for the commerce of the British Empire, and its misfortune has been hitherto that its efforts in the direction of business have hardly been taken seriously. A City branch might perhaps open the eyes of the commercial world to the opportunities for usefulness which it possesses.

#### NOTES FROM KEW.

The *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*, which is issued from the Royal Gardens, Kew, is somewhat erratic in publication. We have just received the numbers for December, January, and February. The one for December contains extracts from several interesting letters by Dr. Augustus Henry to the director of the Gardens, in the course of which there are graphic references to the wealth of the flora of Yunan, China, and the possibilities of commercial development of some branches of the produce-trade. The same number contains a note on *Shinia-leaves* (*Pistacia lentiscus*), the shrub which yields mastic, and which leaves are used for the adulteration of sumac. They are exported from China to Tunis for this purpose. In the number is also a bacteriological note on slime-flux, or mucilage-flux, which is a disease affecting plum and apple trees. "The colourless mucilage escaping from injured portions of diseased plants contains a Schizomycete—*Micrococcus dendroporthes*, Ludwig; this appears to be invariably accompanied by the early, aquatic condition of a fungus (*Torula monilioides*, Corda), the subglobose cells of which float in the hyaline mucilage, and impart to it a brown colour." The *Bulletin* for January and February contains papers on Ceara rubber, Manila hemp, and Cape sumac, and from the miscellaneous notes we observe that Mr. J. A. Gammie, Deputy-Superintendent of the Government cinchona-plantation in Sikkim, has retired, and has been succeeded by Mr. Robert Pantling. In a separate appendix is a list of new garden-plants of the year 1897. Any of these *Bulletins* can be obtained from the Queen's printers, or through any bookseller.

#### Council Couplets.

OUR postcard competition inviting couplets on the Council candidates has brought us a number of verses; but they are the very worst lot we have ever had to judge. There are none of real merit, and the majority are of this type—

In Salisbury city, known to fame,  
There dwells a sage—Atkins his name.

Or,

The B.P. now being ready for sale,  
Secure the services of Martindale.

We strain our good nature to the utmost, and publish the following:—

The saddle of that fiery steed (St. Michael's mount) he fills:  
The presidential Pegasus is restive without Hills.

Of all the names upon the poll, not one surpasses "Gibbons,"  
For he's quite certain to drive straight should he acquire the ribbons.

Eighth on the list, to be in order,  
Should come the name Octavius Corder.

Wha ever else may be a scorer,  
We Scotties maun haes Davie Storrar.

Fair fa' ye, honest Johnnie Johnston—  
Wi' Scottish votes ye surely maun stan'.

If that book, "the little extra," cannot with the chemist fail,  
On that Council there should be the author—Martindale.

These are perhaps the pick of the couplets sent in. We shall have to pay up what we promised, and will announce the winners next week; but we do not think we can give space to any more of their musings.

#### Royal Society "Conversazione."

THE first of the annual *conversazioni* of the Royal Society was held on Wednesday, May 11, at Burlington House, and was attended by all the élite of the scientific world. Lord Lister (the President) received the members and friends.

#### THE EXHIBITION OF SCIENTIFIC NOVELTIES

was a very interesting feature of the evening. The following are a few of those interesting to chemists:—

Professor Hele Shaw was showing, by a lantern-demonstration, the results of his experiments on the flow of water. The stream-lines of motion, in layers of inappreciable thickness, were made visible by means of coloured liquids, displaying very beautiful forms, varying with the nature of the obstruction placed in the centre. Mr. J. Mackenzie Davidon was explaining his Röntgen-ray apparatus for localisation-purposes. The apparatus consists of (1) a horizontal bar, with scale and level attached, upon which slides the holder for the Crookes tube, and (2) the cross-thread localiser, which enables the paths of the  $\alpha$  rays, which produce two photographs from different points of view, to be traced by means of fine silk threads, the crossing fixing the position of the bullet, &c., and thus determining its exact position. Some very fine results in  $\alpha$ -ray work were shown stereoscopically by a Wheatstone stereoscope. Mr. T. Andrews, F.R.S., had some micrographic illustrations of deterioration in steel rails, which showed in a striking manner the changes in the crystalline structure which iron undergoes by wear as railway-rails. Mr. C. Orme Bastian exhibited an electric-current meter acting by electrolysis—the electro-decomposition of a column of liquid (sulphuric acid and water) causing variations in height, the decrease in height being utilised to indicate the quantity of current that has passed through the meter in any given time. Mr. A. A. Campbell Swinton was showing some of his experiments upon the circulation of the residual gaseous matter in Crookes tubes by means of little mill-wheels inside the tubes. There were also two cathode-ray lamps wherein a button of lime is placed between two concave cathodes, which being supplied with a powerful alternating electric current, becomes brilliantly incandescent. These lamps open up a new field in electric lighting, as the amount of light produced for a given quantity of energy is superior to that obtained in ordinary electric lamps. Mr. J. Wimshurst had a Röntgen-ray apparatus with a new form of tube-holder designed to prevent leakage of electricity. The Wimshurst machine was the excitant used.

Mr. Killingworth Hedges, by a method of circulating the electrolyte, showed how copper could be deposited rapidly at high-current densities, hitherto impossible. Mr. K. J. Tarrant had some exquisite photographs of electrical discharges. The outlines of the figures vary according to the method of applying the discharge to the photographic plate, the negative figure from a coil presenting the appearance of a layer of feathers, with a marvellous amount of detail. The newest colour-photographs, called "Naturographs," were shown by Mr. R. B. Roxby. The process is Dr. Selle's. Three negatives are taken through three coloured screens, and, from the negatives, three collodion positives are prepared, each of which is stained in a coloured bath corresponding to the colour-screens. The three films are then superimposed to make a complete coloured picture.

Dr. A. Muirhead and Professor Oliver Lodge had the latest Hertz-wave space-telegraphic instrument on show, and were sending messages on the Lodge syntonic system. The transmitter was an automatic one, with a punched tape. Professors W. A. Herdman and R. Boyce had an exhibit of oysters, showing the different kinds of greenness in oysters, and proving that the peculiar unhealthy greenness, as distinguished from the greenness of healthy oysters, is due to copper. The solar eclipse of January 22, 1893, was well represented photographically by the Astronomer Royal, Sir Norman Lockyer, Captain Hills, Mr. H. F. Newall, and the Astronomer Royal for Scotland. The sun is shown of a diameter of 4 inches in the photographs of the Astronomer Royal. Sir R. T. Thorne and Dr. Copeman had an exhibit of

calf-vaccine lymph. Among other cultures was a series showing the action of glycerin in destroying extraneous micro-organisms in the vaccine. A specimen of vaccine ten months old, and which gives 100 per cent. of good vaccination, was also exhibited proving that the prolonged action of glycerin did not exert any injurious effect on the lymph. A case of experimental medals, bronzed by Japanese methods, was exhibited by Mr. H. Seymour, Deputy-Master of the Mint. The Japanese, it appears, employs various solutions for this purpose; but "Rokusho," or verdigris, is the main constituent of most of them. The experimental medals varied in colour from red to green.

### Living Crystals.

M R. E. A. MINCHIN gave a lecture with the above title at the Royal Institution on Friday night, May 6. He began by speaking of the different shapes which crystals assume according to the medium in which they are formed, and instanced the shape of natural calcite crystals as differing very much from crystals of the same substance formed in a living body. It was one of the problems, he said, of modern biology to account for or bridge over the differences. The difference between native calcite and calcite formed in a living body was so great that it needed the optic method to yield a convincing test. The primitive sponge, a body shaped like a cycle-handle, was formed of spicules of calcite and spores symmetrically arranged, and from this nucleus sponges of other shapes grew. The lecturer spoke of the architecture of a sponge as an exquisite piece of engineering, the spicules of calcite deposited between the cells of tissue being modified according to the available space, and being placed exactly where required for support. The example of adaptation here shown raised the interesting problem of evolution from worse to better. Life was a constant struggle, and the result a greater advance to perfection. In concluding, the lecturer said that, although he could hardly think the lecture would influence the audience when next they purchased a sponge, still a study of biology would show them that there was more mechanism in a mouse than in all the telegraph or railway system of Great Britain. The importance of an object had nothing to do with its size—the bacillus of influenza, in itself very minute, had immense influence—nothing was too little for scientific consideration.

### Marriages.

**ADAMSON—MORRISON.**—At Castlebar, on April 28, Samuel Adamson (of Adamson Brothers, pharmacists, Castlebar and Enniskillen), to Eleanor Morrison, Castlebar.

**FAARRINGTON—HOLOHAN.**—On April 28, at St. Catherine's Church, Meath Street, Dublin, by the Rev. M. Holohan, brother of the bride, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Kelly, Andrew Farrington, L.P.S.I., Dublin, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Walter Holohan, Kilkenny.

### Deaths.

**BROWN.**—At Halstead, Essex, Mrs. Brown, wife of Mr. Alfred J. Brown, chemist and druggist. Aged 78.

**DUSSEK.**—On May 7, at 6 Lausanne Road, Peckham, Alexander Louis Dussek, of Dussek Brothers & Co., Verney Road, S.E. Aged 35.

**SUNMAN.**—On April 28, at 43 Wellington Street, Luton, in the 31st year of her age, Jessie Edith, second daughter of Mr. Joseph T. Sunman, chemist and druggist, Luton.

REFERRING to the notice of Mr. Powell's death in last week's issue, we are asked to state that Mr. W. Powell was the managing director of Thomas Powell (Limited) (Powell's balsam of aniseed), and that he had not been connected with the firm of Powell & Barstow, surgical-instrument makers, for some years.

### A Sale of Drugs.

A T. Stevens's auction-rooms in Covent Garden, cheap lines in microscopes, cameras, human bones, bicycles, polariscopes, porcelain sinks, and other articles of "bigotry and virtue" may be occasionally picked up. A bargain-hunting member of our staff, noting the catalogue of a recent day's temptations, discovered among other luxuries "the stock of expensive drugs of a well-known firm giving up this department." A list of the drugs was given, and, some of the names appearing rather unfamiliar, he resolved to inspect the specimens with a view of providing new material for the compilers of the next B.P. Sprinkled among the various lots were several varieties of "pulo," which looked like an article of Spanish origin. There was "pulo serræ," "pulo sacch lactis," "pulo cureomæ," "pulo cassiae," and "pulopotass. sulph." These, however, with such curiosities as "rad calamb aron," "Barbory aloes," "Glaubus-salt," "tinct. hyssagamus," "tinct. benquoin simplet," and "tinct. primi fire," were found to be old familiar friends disguised under an improved nomenclature. One lot gave our man a deal of trouble, for it contained amongst others three items designated as "K. rhors tox," "tinci olat (oleate tinc)," and "saheme." The last-named looked Oriental, but the stuff proved to be a white powder in a 4-oz. wide-mouth bottle, generally known in the drug-tradec as "salicine." An oleate tincture looked original, but the ingenious catalogue-printer had merely substituted a "T" for a "Z," so that mystery was solved; while the "K" in the "rhors tox" puzzle was evidently intended for "Tr." Lot 298 consisted of "4½ lbs. tinct. bizon. co," which savoured somewhat of a new liquid meat-extract, but was really friars' balsam, and "liq. calcis case" was translated for the benefit of the ignorant as "lime water with sugar." The auctioneer—an aristocratic-looking gentleman with waxed moustachios and an imperial—did not attempt the names of any of the drugs, but said they would be found in the catalogue, and any gentleman who queried the accuracy of that production (which he did not guarantee) could satisfy himself by inspection of the goods at the table. These were his only preliminary observations. No mention was made of a "Poison Law," or warning uttered by a lynx-eyed Pharmaceutical Society, and such lots as

8 oz. of liq. arsen. hydrochlor, 8 oz. liq. strychnina, B.P., 8 oz. of soda arsenias, ½ oz. of syr. althæ (marshmallow), ½ oz. of tinct. cantharides, and 1 oz. of liq. ferri dialysat. (dialized iron)

and

a ½-lb. liq. strychnia mur, B.P., 3 oz. of lin. iodi, 4 oz. of ergotæ conc. and 1 lb. of strontium nit.

were knocked down to the highest bidder (each lot, strange to say, bringing 6s.) as calmly as though it was merely a transaction in bedsteads or fenders. Besides the drugs proper there was likewise offered a

patent medicine; valuable prescription, registered trade-mark, stereo blocks for advertisements and label, and small stock; all ready to start with. About 100*l.* has been spent upon it in advertising.

Keen curiosity was prevalent concerning this item, and the sample was closely scrutinised; but bidders were shy, and the lot sold eventually for 10*s.*, in spite of the expressed opinion of the knight of the hammer that "there might be a fortune in it." Our man had a good look at the specimen, and says it was a dark-coloured liquid in a ½-oz. bottle, labelled "Dr. Wooleff's Celebrated Drops for the Cure of Dysentery, Diarrœa, and Spasms." A gentleman beside him, who sported a preponderance of adipose tissue and gold watch chain, gave his confidential judgment as to its being "on'y Dutch Drops," but this was evidently an opinion based on cursory observation, and not the product of inside knowledge. So the "valuable prescription" in all its original dilapidation, and the secret contained therein, together with three boxes of stock, as per catalogue, were exchanged for the half-sovereign of the lucky purchaser, who concealed his feelings of jubilation very successfully. Appended are a few of the prices obtained for drugs. The

all bore the labels of a well-known London drug firm, and seemed to be in very fair condition:—

	s.	d
Three 28 lbs. boracic acid	15	0
5 lbs. powdered colocynth	3	6
6 lbs. pulv. acacia elect.	12	0
12 lbs. hydrarg. ammon.	26	0
14 lbs. sod. sulph. and 12 lbs. fol. buchu	4	0
5 lbs. tr. sennae and 5 lbs. tr. scillæ	13	0
1 lb. syr. aurantii and 4 lbs. tr. scille	10	0
3 lbs. ess. Jam. ginger	9	0
8½ gals. finest cod-liver oil in square hamper	24	0
180 shop-rounds (gold-labelled), various sizes, and 8 ointment-pots	35	0

## Personalities.

MR. GEORGE T. FULFORD, the proprietor of Dr. Williams's Pink Pills, will leave this country for his home at Brockville, Ontario, Canada, by the *Majestic* on May 18.

BARON DE BUSH (W. J. Bush & Co., Limited) has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers and Wire Workers, and will be installed in June.

MR. JOHN BARCLAY, B.Sc., of Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay, Birmingham, has returned from a six-months' trip to Australasia in the interests of his firm.

MR. J. INGALL, chemist and druggist, High Street, Ashford (Kent), has been elected a member of the Technical Education Committee by the Urban District Council.

AMONGST those who have received the degrees of M.B. and B.Sc. at the University of Cambridge at the recent congregations we observe the name of Mr. E. J. Woolley, B.A., pharmaceutical chemist, Manchester.

AT the Easter Vestry, St. Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye, Mr. Thomas Matthews, chemist and druggist, was unanimously re-appointed people's warden. Mr. Matthews is also treasurer of the Vitruvian Lodge of Freemasons, treasurer of the Oddfellows Lodge and a member of the Urban District Council.

THE LATE MR. THOS. PADWICK, pharmaceutical chemist, Redhill, whose death we reported last week, was in his earlier days an enthusiastic cricketer. He possessed a unique collection of cricketing-curios, which were exhibited at the Crystal Palace last year, and he assisted Dr. Graeae in compiling his work on the national pastime.

AMONGST the fifteen candidates who are proposed for the fellowship of the Royal Society are two chemists—Dr. Alexander Scott, director of the Faraday Research Laboratories, and Mr. W. A. Shenstone, of Clifton College. The latter gentleman is a pharmaceutical chemist, and the son of a pharmacist. He gained a Bell scholarship in 1871, and at the School of Pharmacy distinguished himself, especially in practical chemistry, and at the end of the session gained the Pereira Medal. Thereafter he acted as a demonstrator of practical chemistry in the School of Pharmacy, and subsequently was appointed lecturer in chemistry at Clifton College, which appointment he still holds. Mr. Shenstone has been an investigator for a quarter of a century, first in pharmaceutical subjects, and latterly in pure chemistry. His most recent researches have pertained to the influence of moisture in promoting chemical action—for example, in the oxidation of mercury by oxygen, which investigation called for extreme patience and expertness in glass-blowing. In one experiment oxygen was continuously dried for a period of seven months. The results of his experiments in this direction and in the isolation of pure chlorine have been watched closely by the foremost British chemists, and in Chemical Society circles his election to the Alma Mater of scientific societies has been looked forward to. Dr. A. Scott is a D.Sc. Edinburgh and M.A. Cambridge. His speciality is the re-determination of atomic weights. We also observe in the list of proposed Fellows the name of Mr. A. C. Seward, of Cambridge, examiner in botany to the Pharmaceutical Society, whose researches in fossil botany are of world-wide repute. Mr. J. Wimshurst, the electrician, is also on the list, and Dr. W. Osler, F.R.C.P., of Philadelphia, whose reputation on the practice of physic is world-wide.

## Trade Notes.

MESSRS. LORIMER & CO., of Britannia Row, Islington, have issued a new price-list of drugs generally, and of their manufactures particularly, with illustrations of their put-up goods.

THE ESSENTIAL OIL IMPORTERS & EXPORTERS (LIMITED), successors to Martin Perls & Co., 62 Basinghall Street, have issued a new price-list of essential oils, pure and artificial soap machinery and materials for the trade.

TIMES are getting very hard for dirty people. Messrs. Lorimer & Co. send us a lovely photogravure of the picture "After the Bath" representing six children in different attitudes on artist proof paper. They give one of these pictures with every box (three tablets) of Dr. Raub's egg white toilet-soap, itself a very tempting product made by Chas. F. Miller, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

THE Mawson Filter Company, Newcastle-on-Tyne, have prepared an artistic window-bill for use by their customers, who find this season to be the best for pushing Mawson's filters. Since the introduction of the carbonaceous sand filtering-material the Mawson filter has been extensively used in the Newcastle district for filtering rainwater, which it makes not only palatable, but suitable for practically all purposes for which distilled water is used.

ROGER LE BEAU & CIE. (LIMITED), who are the successors of Napoleon Price & Co., are making a specially advantageous offer among our advertisements of their "Gloriola" soap to chemists. This soap is made by M. Villain, who claims to have been the inventor of one of the most popular among modern soap brands, and the company wishing to win the favour of chemists propose to give them this month 140 per cent. profit if they will take a small stock; they will also supply materials, and send a window-dresser to make a display. Before entering on the experiment they offer to send samples of their soap and perfume to chemists who will risk 1s. 6d. on them.

LIQUEFIED CARBONIC ACID.—On the invitation of Messrs. Barrett & Elers (Limited), a large company of gentlemen interested in the mineral-water trade journeyed to Old Ford on Thursday last to inspect the new factory which has been erected by the company for the production of carbonic acid gas. This building, which is of immense size, has been built since November last, and is now producing liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> at the rate of 14 to 15 cylinders (each containing 28 lbs. avoirdupois of pure liquid gas) per hour. The company, under the polite superintendence of the general manager, Mr. Steinem, were piloted over the premises, and each detail of the working-process was described—from the shovelling of the coke into the furnaces to the drawing-off of the gas into the cylinders. Chunks of solidified gas were collected in bags for the edification of the company, and water was shown boiling in a tumbler at 150° below freezing-point. The company claim nothing new in the process of making the gas, but they assert that theirs is the only factory in the world capable of producing so pure a gas and so great a quantity of it.

MESSRS. RAIMES, CLARK & CO., Edinburgh, have issued a list of new B.P. preparations compiled by the heads of this laboratory. It contains brief notes on almost every new preparation and every altered preparation, such as will inform purchasers of the nature of the new products. There are many suggestive comments in the little pamphlet, and none more pertinent than the note in reference to the gazetting and publication of the B.P. It is observed that it was gazetted on April 29, that Spottiswoode & Co. sent out a circular on April 30 to the effect that the book would not be published until May 11, and that the firm had received a communication from the General Medical Council stating that the book would be ready for issue on May 7. Referring to the new synonyms it is observed that "retail chemists should take particular note of these changes, as, although a very high official of the General Medical Council told us the other day the Pharmacopœia ought to be interpreted in a reasonable manner, we believe that inspectors under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act display occasionally a sad want of reasonableness."

## Westminster Wisdom.

### THE PHARMACY BILL.

On Monday night the House of Commons went again into Committee on the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, Mr. Dunbar Barton in the chair; but Dr. Tanner said he did not think anything practical could be done at that hour—after midnight—in connection with the Bill, in which he took a sincere interest, and he therefore moved to report progress.

Progress was reported accordingly, and the Committee has adjourned until Monday, May 23; so that speeches in honour of the success of the measure prepared for the annual meeting of the Society will have to be carried forward.

## New Companies and Company News.

**EAST END MINERAL-WATER BOTTLE PROTECTION COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 10*s.* shares. Objects: To collect the bottles of members. Registered without articles of association.

**BARKER'S MINERAL-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of a mineral-water manufacturer carried on as "Barker's," at Napier Works, Wall Street, Blackburn.

**KENT COAST MINERAL-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 60,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the businesses of aerated-water manufacturers carried on as "Soutter, Mackenzie & Co.," "Shaxby Brothers," "Barrett & Co.," "Edmonds & Co.," "S. G. Philpott," and "D. P. W. Jones."

**BRUNNER, MOND & CO. (LIMITED).**—The directors have resolved to recommend a dividend for the year of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward 82,212*l.*, which is about the same as last year.

**THE QUININE BITTERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The tenth annual report of this company shows a net profit for the year ending March 31, 1898, of 590*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; the balance brought forward from the previous year was 659*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*—1,250*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was paid in October, 1897, and the directors now recommend a further dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving to be carried forward 276*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

**DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA (LIMITED).**—The statutory meeting of this company was held at the office in Bunhill Row on Monday, Mr. Alderman Treloar presiding. The chairman said the capital offered in March had been subscribed for many times over. The trade customers at that time exceeded 22,500; since the incorporation of the company that number had been largely increased. The business of the past two months showed a considerable increase over the corresponding months of last year, and he believed the interest on the preference shares for the first year had already been earned. He commented on the folly of rivals who advertised against them, and said he was confident that at the annual meeting he should be justified in congratulating them on their property.

**A PHARMACEUTICAL KLONDIKE.**—"Your 'Pharmaceutical Formulas' is a most useful work, and will repay its cost many times over. I procured a copy of it through Messrs. Sutton & Co. last week."—AETHUR WRIGHT (Lowestoft).

**EXPLOSION AT CHANCE'S CHEMICAL-WORKS.**—On Wednesday evening a fire broke out in the sulphur department of Messrs. Chant & Hunt's Chemical-works, Oldbury. It originated from an explosion, which shattered the windows and doors, and also ignited the woodwork. The fire was soon put out, but considerable damage was done.

## Trade-Marks Applied for.

*Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.*

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," May 4, 1898.)

"**RUNSTITUTE**"; for a chemical substance for use in manufacture of soap, and in the treatment of indiarubber or caoutchouc. By Kay Brothers, Stockport, manufacturing chemists. 212,198.

"**MESTEE**"; for all goods in Classes 2 and 48. By the Crown Crystalline Chemical Company, Acton. 212,594 and 212,596.

"**ZOLISTINE**"; for a medicinal preparation for human use. By S. Henry & Co., 109 Holland Park Avenue, W., vendor of medicines. 211,843.

Word "Antiphigistine," on a spatula (the essential particular); for a medical compound for human use. By the Denver Chemical Manufacturing Company, 12 Bancroft Block, Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., manufacturers of chemicals and medicines. 212,309.

"**ICILMA**"; for all goods in Class 3. By S. Armitage, Port-aux-Poules, Oran, Algeria, civil engineer. 213,195.

"**NAO**"; for an improved food. By J. A. Timmis, 2 St. George Street, Westminster, S.W., civil engineer. 212,651.

"**MOTHER RED CAP**"; for perfumery. By Blondeau et Cie. Malden Crescent, N.W., manufacturing-chemists, &c. 212,881.

"**GOLDEN STRAND**"; for perfumery. By the United Alkali Company (Limited), Hazlehurst Soap-works, Runcorn, manufacturers. 213,268.

"**BRIGHTENALL**," and device (the essential particular); for a polishing preparation. By the Brightenall Company, Malone Road, Belfast. 209,973.

Stork's head, figure of same, and signature; for infants' feeding-bottles. By R. W. Stewart, 40 Tower Buildings, Liverpool, financial agent. 211,199.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," May 11, 1897.)

Figure of screw stopper; for carbonic-acid gas for making aerated waters, carbonating beer, refrigerating, aerating bread, white-lead making, and the like purposes. By Barrett & Elers (Limited), 268 South Lambeth Road, S.W., patent-stopper manufacturers. 212,892.

Design of steamboat and quay; for chemical substances used for agricultural, horticultural, veterinary, and sanitary purposes. By Lauts, Wegener & Co., 13 Praya, Hong Kong, China, merchants. 212,537.

Combination of devices (the essential particular), with wording, "Hold Tight Fly-paper Company, Cardiff"; for a sticky fly-paper. By W. Furnivall & Son, trading also as the Hold-tight Fly-paper Company, 113 Castle Road, Cardiff, manufacturing-chemists. 212,826.

"**CUTONA**"; for chemical substances prepared for use in medicine and pharmacy—namely, headache-powders, tie and tooth powders, teething-powders, and cough-elixir. By Thomas Laud Brown, 1 Swan Bank, Congleton, chemist and druggist. 210,693.

"**ISUTAN**"; for chemical substances prepared for use in medicine and pharmacy. By Benoni Siegfried, Zofingen, Switzerland, manufacturer. 212,462.

Device (the essential particular), and wording, "St. Cuthbert"; for a table-water included in Class 44. By R. Fenwick & Co. (Limited), 176 High Street West, Sunderland, brewers. 210,948.

"**ZYBA**"; for perfumery (including toilet-articles, preparations for the teeth and hair, and perfumed soap). By Charles George Wright, 29 Grosvenor Park, S.E., pharmacist. 212,731.

"**TOXOT**"; for perfumery (including toilet-articles, preparations for the teeth and hair, and perfumed soap). By Ernest Reginald Tebbitt, 24 Ludgate Hill, E.C. (L.D.S.). 213,227.

"**DORINA**," "**FLAGSTAFF**," "**TOPSAIL**"; for perfumery (including toilet-articles, preparations for the teeth and hair, and perfumed soap). By Edward Cook & Co., 10 Mark Lane, E.C., and Bow, E., soap-manufacturers. 213,429, 213,431, and 213,435.

Design of hour-glass; for perfumery (including toilet-articles, preparations for the teeth and hair, and perfumed soap). By William Gossage & Sons (Limited), Widnes, Lancs, soap-manufacturers. 213,545.

## "Pharmaceutical Formulas," The New "C. and D." Book of Recipes.

Price, 7s. 6d.; by post, 8s.

**W**ILL provincial chemists please note that we cannot send the book for inclosure to wholesale houses? If they wish to save the postage, they have only to order the book from one of their wholesale houses. The following firms stock it, and sell it at the net price, 7s. 6d.:—

Allison, E. & H. (Limited), Hull  
 Anderson & Co., Edinburgh  
 Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool  
 Barelay & Sons (Limited), London  
 Bleasdale (Limited), York  
 Boilean & Boyd (Limited), Dublin  
 Brown Brothers & Co., Glasgow  
 Clay, Dod & Co., Liverpool  
 Clay, Dod & Gray, Dundee  
 Duncan, Flockhart & Co., Edinburgh  
 Edwards, Wm., & Son, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.  
 Evans, Lescher & Webb, London  
 Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool  
 Fletcher, Fletcher & Co., Holloway, N.  
 Ford, Shapland & Co., London  
 Fraser & Green, Glasgow  
 Glasgow Apothecaries' Company, Glasgow  
 Hatriek, W. & R., & Co., Glasgow.  
 Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (Limited), Leeds  
 Ismay, John, & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne  
 Kemp, W., & Son, Horneastle  
 Lennon, B. G., & Co. (Limited), London  
 Lewis, H. K., 136 Gower Street, W.C.  
 Lofthouse & Saltmer, Hull.  
 Lynch & Co. (Limited), Aldersgate Street, E.C.  
 Maw, S., Son & Thompson, London  
 May, Roberts & Co., London  
 Newbery, F., & Sons, London  
 Oldfield, Pattinson & Co., Manchester  
 Pinkerton, Gibson & Co., Edinburgh  
 Potter & Clarke, London  
 Raimes, Clark & Co., Edinburgh  
 Raimes & Co., York  
 Sanger, J., & Sons, London  
 Smith, T. & H., & Co., Edinburgh  
 Stevenson, H. E., & Co., 130 Southwark Street, S.E.  
 Sutton & Co., Chiswell Street, E.C.  
 Wilkinson & Simpson (Limited), Newcastle-on-Tyne  
 Woolley, J., Sons & Co. (Limited), Manchester  
 Wright, Layman & Umney, Southwark Street, S.E.  
 Wyleys (Limited), Coventry

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"Pharmaceutical Formulas" is a book of about 700 pages. It differs from most books of recipes in not being confined to the bare formulas. Wherever experience has suggested comments or remarks likely to aid the compounder or to develop a business idea, such remarks are made in a distinctive manner, so that reference to the formulas is not interfered with. There are about 4,000 formulas in the book.

## Chemical Society.

**T**HE first paper read at the meeting on May 5 was by C. F. Cross, E. J. Bevan, and Claude Smith, on "The Action of Hydrogen Peroxide on Carbohydrates in the Presence of Iron." It will be remembered that Mr. Fenton has been working for some years at the oxidation of tartaric acid by hydrogen peroxide, and finds that this can be done only in the presence of soluble iron compounds. The authors have studied the behaviour of typical hexoses and of cane-sugar, when treated in aqueous solution with hydrogen peroxide at ordinary temperatures, and, in confirmation of Fenton's observations, have found in this group also that the presence of iron compounds is an essential condition for the production of the characteristic reactions. In view of the obvious bearings upon the physiology of plants which this reaction has, the authors have brought forward this preliminary communication.

Dr. Armstrong, in the course of the discussion, referred to the interest of the work in connection with vegetable physiology, indicative as it was of the far-reaching character of the interactions concerned in the elaboration of the pro-

ducts of plant activity. It seemed quite possible, from the experiments of Mr. Cross and his colleagues, that iron, which is known to be present in most plants, may behave to some extent as an enzyme, and thus possess unexpected importance from the point of view of plant-chemistry.

The next two papers were by Mr. Fenton himself; the first was a "Note on the Oxidation of Certain Acids in Presence of Iron." When tartaric acid is oxidised in presence of a small quantity of ferrous iron, one molecule of the acid loses two atoms of hydrogen, giving rise to dihydroxymaleic acid. The most effective oxidising agent for the purpose is hydrogen dioxide, but the result is also brought about by chlorine, hypochlorites, bromine, &c., and by atmospheric oxygen in presence of sunlight. The presence of ferrous iron is essential, the action being apparently catalytic. It is necessary that the addition of iron shall precede that of the oxidising agent. The author then proceeded to suggest a theoretical explanation of the reaction, in which he assumed that the non-hydroxylic hydrogen of the acids was temporarily replaced by ferrous iron, which then became ferric iron and split off again.

Dr. Armstrong thought a more probable explanation of the part played by iron to be that the iron salt became added to the carboxylic group.

Mr. Fenton, referring to the suggestion he had made, said that replacement of non-hydroxylic hydrogen atoms by metals might also occur in Fehling's and other similar solutions.

The other papers were of less general interest:—"Properties and Relationships of Dihydroxytartaric Acid (Part II., Metallic Salts)," by Henry J. Horstman Fenton, M.A.; "The Affinity-constants of Dihydroxymaleic, Dihydroxyfumaric, Dihydroxytartaric, and Tartaric Acids," by S. Skinner, M.A.; "Note on the Enolic and Ketonic Forms of Ethylic Acetoacetate," by R. S. Morrell, M.A., Ph.D., and J. M. Crofts, B.A., B.Sc.; "The Resolution of Tetrahydropapaverine into its Optically Active Components," by William Jackson Pope and Stanley John Peachey.

## At the Counter.

A FAR EASTERN CORRESPONDENT sends us specimens of some of the interesting communications received by him in the way of business. One is a letter from a Japanese physician. It is thus expressed:—

SIR,—Allow me to buy the following medicine which I certified here to use for medical mixion certainly Iodoform of One Once.

The next correspondent is familiar in every clime:—

DEAR SIR,—I shall be grateful if you will kindly borrow me a few dollars because the Chinese New Year is at hand. I had borrowed for several times and I feel thank you very much. For if the Chinese New Year is not nearly then I dare not ask to borrow. I hope that you'll kindly let me have a chance.

Here is an application for a situation from a native dispenser:—

DEAR SIR,—Aperting several months from you I have the most eagerly respectfulness asking about your favourable living at —. In hearing that there is a vacancy in your dispensary which is now want for a person to assist in your apartment therefore I offer myself for this post and as I was your old comrade you did know what was my business and if you are to be good enough to enter me as your servant no doubt I will suffer you every satisfaction. I still wait upon your aswer.

MR. ROBERT WATSON, Mathiuna, Tasmania, sends us the following letter received:—

Dear sir cold yon let me have a nother bottle if you ant got that other as my eof is so bad I am friten it will bring laber on and I am exp to be lade up next month dont be a fraide of the mony you will get it to night dont let a women die for for the wont o stut

The medicine the poor woman wanted to save her from dying was Kay's Essence of Linseed.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—Mr. A. J. Tansley (Kidsgrove) says on May 9: "I fail to see how any chemist in business can afford to be without a copy of 'Pharmaceutical Formulas.'" This new recipe-book is published at the C. & D. office.

## Business Changes.

*Notice of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.*

MR. C. JACKSON, chemist and druggist, has opened a new branch in Castle Street, Luton.

MR. C. L. SEELEY has opened a handsome pharmacy at Victoria Parade, East Finchley, N.

MESSRS. FIELD & HAYWARD, chemists, have opened a branch business in Wednesday Market, Beverley.

MR. ALFRED E. KILLON, chemist and druggist, Chester, has purchased the business of Mr. George Senior, chemist and druggist, Kingsley Road, Princes Park, Liverpool.

THE dissolution of the partnership between Messrs. T. E. Butler, J. M. Butler, and H. M. Thornton, trading under the style of Butler, Son, & Co., chemists and druggists, Leicester, has been gazetted.

MR. G. WHITEHEAD, of Clayton, Manchester, has purchased the goodwill of the business of Mr. Robert Rumney, established 1841, and formerly carried on at the Ardwick Chemical-works, Manchester.

MESSRS. BOOT (LIMITED), Cash chemists, Bedford, have removed from the premises which they have occupied for some time in Harpur Street to more commodious premises in Silver Street and Harpur Street.

## Wills.

The late Mr. James Hobbs Streeter, chemist and druggist, 3 Sloane Street, S.W., having died intestate, and a widower, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his sister, Mrs. Clara Goody, 179 Earl's Court Road, as guardian, curator, and next-of-kin to the deceased's minor children, and only next-of-kin, and as such entitled to his property. The deceased's estate is sworn at 854*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

Probate of the will, which bears date August 11, 1887, with codicils of October 16, 1894, September 15, 1896, July 15, 1897, and September 16, 1897, of Mr. Bailey Blackburn, of Cliffe Lodge, Baildon, for many years a well-known chemist in Bradford, who died on December 18 last, leaving personal estate of the value of 57,012*l.* 2*s.*, has been granted to his nephew, George Birdsall Blackburn, of Bradford, cashier; his nephew, Samuel Blackburn, of Bradford, chemist; and Thomas George Wilcock, of Shipley, secretary to the gas company.

The will, with two codicils, of Sir Richard Quain, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., &c., who died on March 13, has been proved by his brother, Mr. F. Quain, of Mincing Lane; Mr. J. E. C. Matthews, 8 Trevor Terrace, Westminster, a son-in-law; Mr. W. Cudge, of Norwich, a brother-in-law; and Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, of Lincoln's Inn, whom the testator also constitutes his trustees. The testator directs that an annuity of 40*l.* shall be paid to Mary Louisa, widow of the Rev. William Wray, and to her daughter Katherine Lucy afterwards, should she be the survivor. All the rest of his property, real and personal, Sir R. Quain leaves to his executors, in trust for the benefit of his four daughters and their children. The testator's gross estate is sworn at 118,121*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, the net personality being 116,820*l.*

**BORACIC ACID AS A PRESERVATIVE**—The authorities evidently intend to discourage the use of boracic acid for preservative-purposes, as two cases during the past week show. At Marylebone Police Court on Wednesday, a milk-retailer was fined 40*s.*, with two guineas costs, for selling milk which on being analysed was found to contain 40 gr. of boric acid to the gallon. At Birmingham on Tuesday a co-operative society was convicted of selling a pound of butter which contained 70 gr. of boracic acid, or an equivalent of 1 per cent. In this case the Bench imposed a fine of 20*s.* and costs, to include 5*l.* towards the expenses of the prosecution.

## The Board of Trade Returns.

THE following table represents the quantities and value of the imports and exports of drugs, chemicals, &c., into the United Kingdom for April. The items marked "D" indicate a decrease:

	IMPORTS.	Quantity	Value
		£	£
Alkali (cwt.) ...	... 15,517	10,979	
Aniline and other dyes	... —	42,153 D	
Alizarine	... —	13,800 D	
Borax (cwt.) ...	416	360	
Brimstone (cwt.) ...	36,386	8,205	
Chemical manufactures and products, unenumerated	—	118,355	
Cinnamon (lbs.) ...	226,664	7,876	
Cochineal (cwt.) ...	562	3,618	
Cocoanut oil (cwt.) ...	25,773	28,531	
Drugs, unenumerated	—	87,950	
Ginger (cwt.) ...	20,875	39,588	
Gum arabic (cwt.) ...	2,594	5,263 D	
Gum lac, seed, shell, stick, and dye (cwt.) ...	12,752	42,810 D	
Olive oil (tuns)	2,922	97,781	
Palm oil (cwt.) ...	72,513	78,160	
Paraffin (cwt.) ...	98,285	80,975	
Pepper (lbs.) ...	2,914,752	52,095 D	
Peruvian bark (cwt.) ...	6,739	12,726 D	
Petroleum (gals.) ...	13,972,963	228,434	
Quicksilver (lbs.) ...	400,070	37,373 D	
Rape-seed (qrs.) ...	7,882	13,510	
Resin (cwt.) ...	77,700	16,243	
Saltpetre (cwt.) ...	31,123	23,687 D	
Spices, unenumerated (lbs.) ...	374,762	10,146 D	
Turpentine (cwt.) ...	33,566	41,575	

	EXPORTS.	Quantity	Value
		£	£
Alkali (cwt.) ...	297,958	75,017 D	
Bleaching materials (cwt.) ...	97,809	27,950	
Borax (cwt.) ...	5	4	
Chemical manufactures and products, unenumerated	—	13,401 D	
Cinnamon (lbs.) ...	159,700	4,492	
Cochineal (cwt.) ...	146	889	
Cocoanut oil (cwt.) ...	8,522	9,835	
Copper sulphate (tons) ...	11,081	177,890	
Gum arabic (cwt.) ...	4,429	8,367	
Gum lac, seed, shell, stick, and dye (cwt.) ...	5,180	19,209 D	
Indigo (cwt.) ...	5,621	102,403 D	
Medicines, comprising drugs and chemical preparations	—	86,882 D	
Olive oil (tuns)	296	10,645 D	
Palm oil (cwt.) ...	46,520	50,044	
Pepper (lbs.) ...	1,243,000	23,623 D	
Peruvian bark (cwt.) ...	2,687	4,430	
Petroleum (gals.) ...	84,325	2,876	
Quicksilver (lbs.) ...	220,425	20,191	
Salt, rock and white (tons) ...	45,326	28,983 D	
Saltpetre (cwt.) ...	1,624	1,203 D	
Seed oil (tons) ...	4,195	70,596 D	
Soap (cwt.) ...	63,187	61,830	
Spices, unenumerated (lbs.) ...	412,200	9,013 D	

The exports of alkali show a decrease of 179,608*l.*, against those of April, 1897; medicines, comprising drugs and medicinal preparations, also show a falling off of 4,733*l.* The quicksilver figures are almost double those of last month, and an all-round increase is noted in cocoanut and palm oils, cinnamon, and pepper.

The imports of quicksilver show a shrinkage of 76,440*l.* against the corresponding period of 1897. Chemical manufactures and products unenumerated, however, have increased in value by 14,916*l.* With the exception of alizarine (which shows a decrease of 3,637*l.*), aniline, and other coal-tar dyes, have been imported in increased amounts, and the same remark applies to olive, palm, and cocoanut oils, petroleum, and turpentine.

**SYNOPSIS OF B.P. CHANGES**—Mr. W. Martindale has just issued "A Synopsis of the Principal Changes in the British Pharmacopœia," which is extracted from advance sheets of the ninth edition of the "Extra Pharmacopœia," now in the press. It is a booklet of 16 pages, and is published at 6*d.* It gives in a concise form the principal changes which have taken place, and will be particularly of use to medical men as a guide in prescribing.

## Trade Report.

### Notice to Retail Buyers.

*It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk; and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473.*

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., May 12.

A COMPARATIVELY dull market this week, and an absence of excitement, except in quinine, which has suffered a slump in second-hands, while ipecacuanha and opium are scarce and dearer. The following are the principal changes which we report:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Antimony	Aloes (Cape)	Benzoin
Balsam Peru	Ammonia sulphate	Buchu
Balsam tolu	Benzols	Calumba
Caraway-seed	Cascara sagrada	Cardamoms
Croton seeds	Gentian root	Colocynthi
Ginger (Jam.)	Potash prussiate	Quinine (sec. hand)
Ipecacuanha	Senna	
Linseed		
Oil, almond		
Opium		
Quicksilver		
Quinine (makers)		
Sugar of milk		

On Monday the Produce Brokers' Association resolved to hold the drug sales in No. 10 room of the Commercial Sale Rooms, and they were accordingly held there. A report of the sales follows this section.

### CABLEGRAMS.

HAMBURG, May 12, 12 A.M.:—Caraway-seed is advancing. Condurango-bark is also slightly firmer at 47c. per 100 kilos. Opium is also firm.

\* \* \* \*

NEW YORK, May 12, 2.12 P.M.:—The tone of the drug and chemical markets is quiet. Opium is firmly held at \$3.55 per lb. Morphine has advanced to \$2.25 per oz. A reaction has set in in quinine sulphate, and sales have been made at 22c. per oz. in a languid market. Balsam copaiba is advancing steadily, and 47½c. to 50c. per lb. is now asked. Balsam Peru is also advancing, and supplies are very limited; \$2.20 per lb. is now asked. Balsam tolu is offered at 45c., and firm at that. Chlorate of potash has declined from the recent advance, and 10c. per lb. is to-day's price. Sulphur is also easier and in fair supply at \$35 per ton.

\* \* \* \*

BERGEN, May 12, 10.55 A.M.—The Finmarken fishing is steadily improving, and although gales have prevailed this week they have not been sufficiently severe to prevent good catches. The total catch from the beginning of the season to date amounts to 32,463,000 fish, against 48,301,000, and the yield of medicinal oil is 19,716 barrels, against 26,216 last year. The market is very quiet, and the price has declined to 80s. per barrel, f.o.b.

\* \* \* \*

ACID, OXALIC, is quoted at from 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb. on the spot.

BALSAM PERU.—Dearer, 9s. per lb. now being wanted for best quality.

BORAX.—Crystals are unchanged at 14s., and powder at 14s. 6d. per cwt. The export of boracic acid from Leghorn during March fell off considerably, and amounted to 1,256 quintals, of which 314 went to Great Britain. Of Borax 247 quintals were exported, Great Britain taking the whole of this except 11 quintals.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—The market has slightly advanced, 83s. 6d. to 85s. per cwt. c.i.f. being quoted for Chinese, and from 90s. to 93s. c.i.f. for Japanese.

CANTHARIDES.—For good Russian flies 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per lb. is asked on the spot. Chinese are not offering at the moment—in fact, there are none to be had. The stock of Chinese flies in Hong Kong on April 2 was estimated at 10 piculs.

CARAWAY-SEED.—Reports from Holland estimate that the crop there will only be about 50,000 bags, as against 80,000 last year. In consequence of these reports, prices have advanced recently. Good seed cannot now be bought under 23s. to 24s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—Last week's Amsterdam auctions contained a total of 625,862 kilos. of bark (1,376,896 lbs.) of which 592,300 kilos. (1,303,060 lbs.) was manufacturing bark and contained the equivalent of 28,874 kilos. (1,010,590 ozs.) of quinine sulphate. The average quinine value was 4 85 per cent., the lowest bark containing 1 28 per cent., and the highest 8 81 per cent. The unit varied from 4 75c. to 6c., the average being 5 20 against 4 25c. paid at the April sales. Bark containing 7,482 kilos. of quinine (260,870 ozs.) sold at 5c., and all but 1,971 kilos. of the rest at from 5 25c. to 6c. There was nothing of particular interest in the sales, and as our space this week is limited the foregoing particulars must suffice. The next sales will be held on Thursday, June 9.

COCAINE.—Cutting is going on below 9s. 6d. per oz., the official quotation, and business was done at 9s. per oz. at the end of last week. One German manufacturer has put up his price to 9s. 9d.

COCA-LEAVES.—The exports of coca from Java from July 1, 1897, to February 28, 1898, amounted to:—

1897-98	1896-97	1895-96	1894-95	1893-94
813	645	825	751	96

CREAM OF TARTAR.—The new British Pharmacopoeia requires an article containing not less than 97½ per cent. of acid potassium tartrate, and in consequence there has been a rather brisk demand for a cream meeting this requirement, and at present it is difficult to get supplies. The foreign make of this quality in powder is quoted at from 80s. to 83s. per cwt., and the English makers want from 85s. to 92s. 6d. per cwt. Other grades unchanged. (See Heavy Chemicals.)

DAMIANA-LEAVES can be bought at 6d. per lb. "c.i.f." on the spot 7d. to 9d. is asked, according to quality.

FENNEL-SEED.—German is 26s. 6d. c.i.f., and upwards.

GALLS.—A small business is reported in blue Persian at 55s. per cwt. Other kinds are quiet.

GENTIAN-ROOT.—Good dry is 20s. to 21s. per cwt. c.i.f. but there is little to be had at this figure.

JABORANDI.—For good small leaves from 5d. to 5½d. per lb. is asked. Some 250 bales were sold in Liverpool last week at low prices, and buyers there believe they are good stock.

MATICO.—Good green pressed leaves are 8d. per lb. on the spot.

MENTHOL is steady at 6s. 9d. per lb., c.i.f., for April-May steamer shipment, or 7s. on the spot.

OIL, ALMOND.—Dearer by 2d. per lb., 1s. 4d. now being wanted for English; ditto pallid has also been advanced to 1s. 6d. *O. amygd. Persic.* is unaltered, but if the disturbances continue in Italy it is likely to go dearer as well as the almond oil.

OIL, CASTOR.—Continues very firm; first pressing Belgian on the spot is 32s. and second pressing 30s. per cwt. British manufacture is also firm, Hull makers not offering forward: first pressing is offered at 30s. 10s. and seconds at 29s. 10s. per ton f.o.r. or f.o.b.

OIL, COCOANUT.—A firm market at 24s. per cwt. on the spot for Ceylon, or for June-August delivery 22s. 9d. to 23s. c.i.f. Cochin 27s. on the spot, or 25s. 3d. c.i.f. for August-October delivery.

OIL (COD LIVER) quiet and without change in quotations because no business is passing. The lowest quotation we hear of is 85s. c.i.f. for best non-congealing oil, and buyers

are not confident that less would not be taken. Our Bergen correspondent writes on May 7, that the Finmarken fishing has improved since the last report, the catch being 1,500,000 cod, sufficient to yield 486 barrels of medicinal oil, compared with 2,500,000 fish and 638 barrels in 1897, and 8,000,000 or 4,000 barrels in 1896. The Bergen market is quiet, and Lofoten non-congealing medicinal oil is slightly easier at 80s. per barrel f.o.b. The exports from Bergen up to date amounted to 3,515 barrels, against 2,713 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—A quiet market, at 4½d. to 5d. per oz.

OPIUM.—The market continues to harden. Since the beginning of April 400 cases have been shipped to the United States, and the stock in London is now estimated at 250 cases, of which about 100 is druggists' opium. There is very little Persian held here. Druggists' opium has been sold this week at 10s. 6d. per lb., but sellers now want 11s. Persian has been sold at 11s., but 11s. 6d. is now asked, and owing to the short crop it is likely to go higher. Although the stock of opium in Smyrna is large the holders are well prepared to carry it on, and in view of the short crop they are likely to succeed in maintaining the high values. The arrivals of opium at Smyrna since June 18 of last year up to April 29 amounted to 3,460 cases against 2,390 cases at the same period of last year, and in Constantinople up to April 23, 1870, against 1,557 in 1897. The stock at Smyrna is now reported at 2,750 cases, not including what is held on speculation, and in Constantinople 645 cases. The sales at Constantinople for the week exceeded 60 cases, of which the majority were for exportation, and this in the face of a higher market. The sales at Smyrna since our last advice have been 14 cases, including Yerli at the parity of 9s. 9d. per lb. f.o.b., and Karabissar at 9s. 4d. to 9s. 8d.

PHENACETIN.—Is quiet at 3s. 6d. per lb. for best makes, and it is not possible to buy at less, an offer of 3s. 5d. for quantity, made last week, having been refused.

QUICKSILVER.—The first-band price has again been advanced to 7l. 10s. per bottle; and the second to 7l. 9s. 6d. There is as yet no change in mercurials. The imports and exports of quicksilver for April are given elsewhere. Mr. A. S. Pickering reports the average April prices for the last four years to be:—1898, 7l.; 1897, 7l. 3s. 6d.; 1896, 6l. 14s. 6d.; 1895, 6l. 13s. 6d.

QUININE.—An unsettled market. Last Friday Messrs. Howards & Sons issued a circular of prices showing an advance of 1d. per oz. on the previous circular, the quotations being as follows:—100-oz. tins, 1s. 2d.; 25-oz. tins, 1s. 2½d.; 4-oz. bottles, 1s. 3d.; 1-oz. vials, 1s. 4d.; and ½-oz. vials, 1s. 5d. per oz for not less than 100 oz. Hydrochloride is quoted at 1s. 8½d. per oz.; Whiffen's price was also advanced on May 6 to 1s. 0½d., in 100-oz. tins, or 1s. in 1,000-oz. lots. German manufacturers have not issued any circular, as they are not at present eager for business. B. & S. is quoted nominally at 1s. per oz., but they are not taking orders for May and June delivery. In second-hand business has been done at 10½d. per oz. for German sulphate; and as we close for press the market is in a shaky condition. Java quinine has sold in New York at 22c. per oz.

SEEDS.—At the spice auctions there was more demand for Anise; 5 tons Mediterranean sold at 19s. 6d. per cwt.; but nothing doing in Russian. Dutch Caraways fully 2s. per cwt. dearer, owing to small estimate of next crop; good sales have been made at 21s. to 23s. 6d. per cwt. Canary-seed quiet at the late advance; a parcel of 100 bags Spanish sold cheaply at auction, at 32s. 6d. to 33s. per qr. Cumin steady, and business doing at 23s. 6d. per cwt. for Mogador, and at 24s. 6d. to 28s. for ordinary to fine Malta. Coriander and Fenugreek unchanged. Bold Linseed dearer at 45s. per qr.

SPICES.—With the exception of Jamaica Ginger, which sold at auction well on Wednesday at a considerable advance for the finer qualities, the market for spices generally has been dull and uneventful. Cochin Ginger sold at firm prices for cut, bold realising 80s. per cwt., small native cut, 32s. 6d. to 34s.; for medium cut 58s. was bid, for very bold Calicut rough, 42s., and for ordinary 26s.; but these prices were not accepted in the room. About 700 packages Jamaica were offered and all sold at steady prices for ordinary, but

at an advance for fine, which in some cases amounted to 15s.; lean dark and dull small, 75s. 6d. to 83s. 6d.; middling dull to good washed, 85s. to 105s.; and bold bleached, 105s. to 127s. 6d. per cwt. Japan slightly cheaper, 120 bags selling without reserve at 17s. per cwt. for ordinary smallish rough lined. Zanzibar Cloves have fluctuated for delivery within narrow limits, being dearer on the week; June-August at 32s. 6d., and August-October at 4d. per lb.; 65 bales good fair at auction sold at 3½d., one lot at 4d. per lb.; 35 bales stems realising 1½d. per lb. One lot of Japan Chillies sold at 39s. per cwt.; and 3 bales Natal Capsicums at 60s. to 65s. per cwt. Nutmegs, Mace, and Pimento slow of sale. Pepper rather quiet; 18 bags fine Mangalore black sold at 8d. per lb. Singapore and Lampung bought in; for arrival the quotations are 4½d. for Singapore black, 8d. for Singapore white, and 6½d. for Penang white, distant shipment. The white pepper at auction was bought in. Cassia-lignea sold at 50s. per cwt. for good quality, new import. Cinnamon sold at 3d. per lb. for bark; at 5d. for bold hard cuttings; at 8½d. to 9d. for fair cuttings; and at 9½d. for pieces.

SUGAR OF LEAD.—The quotation for white foreign make is 267 per ton, c.i.f., for 5-ton quantities.

SUGAR OF MILK has been more inquired for. Finest Italian powder is offered at from 55s. per cwt., f.o.b. terms, to 66s. spot, according to make, and American powder at 60s. per cwt. spot.

SULPHONAL in crystals and powder is still obtainable in small lots, of 10 to 20 lbs., from the manufacturers, at 7s. 3d. per lb. There is very little to be had in second hand.

SULPHUR.—Unchanged, but firm at 6l. 10s. c.i.f., for sublimed and 6l. 5s. for roll. Supplementary to last week's reference to the United States demand for sulphur, Reuter telegraphs from Montreal that every pound of sulphur now in that city has been bought up for shipment to the United States. One Montreal firm has contracted to supply 10,000 tons, already secured in Europe, via Canada. As the Italian and Spanish Governments have now agreed that sulphur is not to be treated as contraband of war further trouble on this score is not likely.

VANILLIN.—German make is offered at 3s. 6d. down to 3s. 3d. per oz., according to maker, and French make at 3s. 3d. per oz. in 1-lb. quantities.

WAX, CARNAUBA.—Prices have lately declined, owing to the new crop arriving freely. A good quantity of grey wax has been sold recently at 37s. 6d. to 39s., medium at 42s. 6d. to 47s. 6d., and yellow at 52s. 6d. to 72s. 6d. per cwt., according to quality.

## Drug-auctions in London.

TO-DAY the sales were, for the first time, conducted at No. 10 of the Commercial Sale Rooms, Mincing Lane, and general satisfaction was expressed at the change. The room proved to be a trifle noisy, but this defect is likely to be remedied before the next auction. When Mr. Dalton (Dalton & Young), the first broker, took the chair he said he hoped brokers and druggists would find better accommodation in No. 10, and that the sales would be held there for many years to come; also that both pleasure and profit would be derived from association with the room—for themselves and their successors. He recalled the fact that the sales had been held in Garroway's Coffee-house thirty years ago.

Mr. Richard Banks Barron, speaking as perhaps the oldest member of the drug-trade and one of those who attended the sales at Garroway's Coffee-house, returned thanks for Mr. Dalton's kind expressions, and he hoped that the change would be very much appreciated. They had been at a great discomfort in the old place, but now they had got ample accommodation. He hoped now they had got a new room that the brokers would make it a rule to be more punctual in future, and commence the sales at the advertised time. As it was now, they were usually ten to fifteen minutes late.

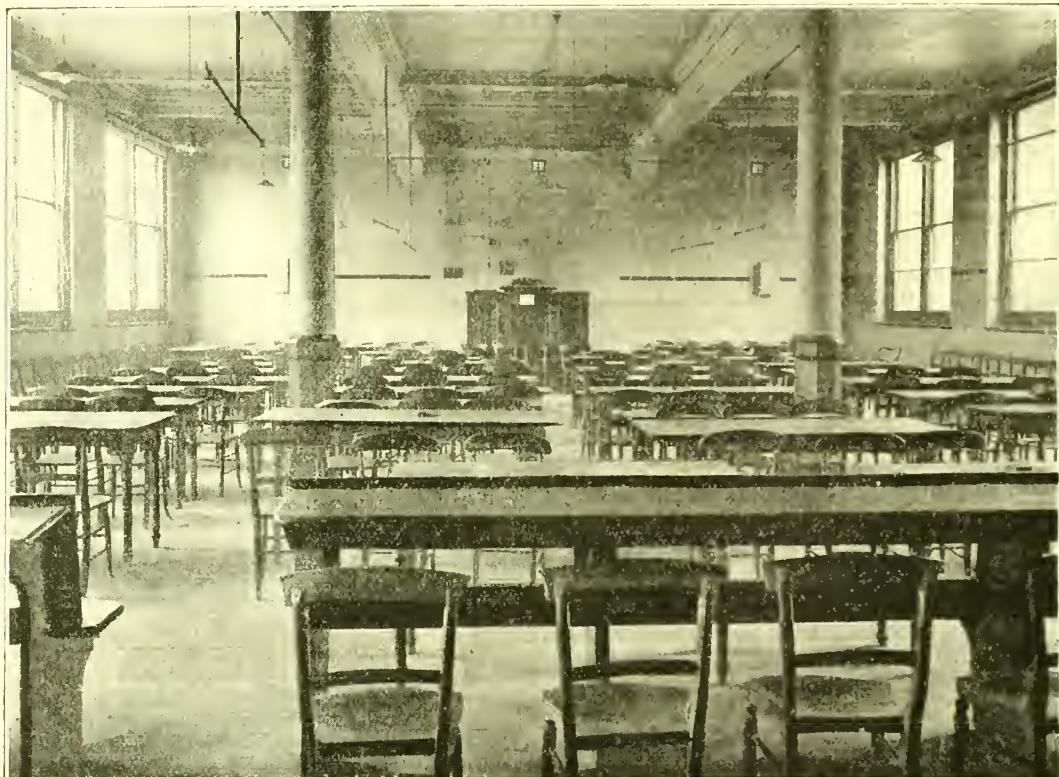
Mr. Dalton thought the matter should be put to the room as to whether the sales should begin at 10 30 or 10 45, and fifty voted for the former hour and three for the latter.

The sales were then proceeded with. At 12.45 the whole of the "room" adjourned for luncheon on the invitation of the brokers. An excellent cold collation was served.

Mr. H. W. Price (Price, Hickman & Co.) presided. Before saying grace, Mr. Price remarked that the drug-business was

place. (Laughter.) Gentlemen, on behalf of the drug-trade I thank you very much for your kindness.

The company then returned to No. 10, some remarking that it would be a good thing if a luncheon adjournment were arranged at every sale, but a wise man reminded them that "the rush for the luncheon-bars and rooms would be dreadful; better the old way and an occasional nicely-arranged luncheon like that we have had to-day."



"No. 10."

very much changed since he first attended the sales at Garroway's Coffee-house, and during that time a good many brokers had passed away or retired. He mentioned, among others, Mr. Brookes, Mr. Gray, Mr. Peat, Mr. Jenkin and Mr. Griffin. They had seen that most of those who had been engaged in the drug-trade retired with fortunes, but he could not say the same of the brokers—they were a struggling lot. (Laughter.) Speaking on behalf of the brokers, he desired to show their appreciation of the many kindnesses from the members of the drug-trade during the many years they had been connected together, and he hoped the new departure would inaugurate a prosperous future, and that they would be on the same terms of friendship for many years to come.

After luncheon (which was well served, thanks to the careful supervision of Mr. W. W. Green), Mr. R. B. Barron thanked the brokers for their cordial hospitality. He said: We have all much enjoyed the kindness which they have extended to us to-day, and I have pleasure in asking you all to join with me in thanking them for asking us. It is an exceptional goodness on their part. (Hear, hear!) We are all pleased and satisfied at the great change which we have made, and after another sale or two we shall be quite accustomed to meet here, and at 4 or 5 in the afternoon we shall be in a better condition than in the old

The tone of the sales was quiet on the whole, as the following list shows:—

	Offered	Sold	Offered	Sold	
Aloes (Cape).....	18	3	Dill-seed .....	127	0
(Curaçao).....	179	123	Dragon's blood.....	3	0
(Soc.) .....	67	0	Ergot of rye .....	54	0
Arcca-nuts .....	53	37	Galls .....	296	0
Ambergris.....	3	1	Golden seal .....	1	0
Aniseed.....	32	7	Guaiacum .....	2	0
Annatto seed .....	40	0	Gum arabic .....	130	0
Antimony.....	52	0	ammoniacum ...	1	0
Argol, Cape .....	20	20	tragacanth .....	3	3
Balsam copaiba .....	14	0	Honey .....	187	48
Tolu .....	9	5	Ipecacuanha (Cart.)	72	0
Benzoin .....	413	216	(Rio) .....	24	0
Buchu .....	38	24	Jalap .....	34	0
Calumba .....	579	102	Kamala .....	11	1
Camphor (refined) .....	9	8	Kino .....	16	0
Cannabis indica .....	6	0	Kola nuts .....	40	2
Cardamoms .....	358	243	Lac, stick .....	133	0
Cascara sagrada .....	100	0	Licorice-seed .....	4	0
Cascarilla .....	13	3	Lime-juice .....	58	0
Cinchona .....	199	182	Lemon-juice .....	4	0
Civet (horns) .....	2	0	Mastic .....	2	1
Colocynth .....	20	13	Musk .....	12	0
Coriander-seed.....	20	0	Myrrh .....	30	29
Cowhage .....	2	1	Oil, bay .....	4	1
Croton-seed .....	8	3	eajuput .....	11	0
Cubeb .....	222	0	castor .....	100	0
Cumin-seed .....	78	0	cedarwood.....	5	0
Cucus .....	3	0	cinnamon .....	3	0
Cuttlefish bone .....	106	0	cloves .....	3	0

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Oil, cod-liver.....	20	0	Quinine sulphate...	8	0
eucalyptus.....	49	0	Rhubarb .....	179	37
lemon grass.....	15	0	Sarsaparilla .....	55	20
lemon.....	2	0	Scammony root .....	87	0
limes.....	9	7	Senega-root .....	12	0
olive.....	5	0	Senma.....	131	16
orange (bitter)...	1	1	Squills .....	4	0
patchouli.....	8	0	Stavesacre seed .....	10	0
rose (Bombay)...	7	0	Tamarinds .....	25	0
wintergreen.....	2	0	Tonka-beans.....	10	0
ylang-ylang.....	2	0	Vermilion .....	9	0
Orange-peel.....	55	0	Wax (bees') .....	240	27
Orris.....	22	7	(Japan) .....	39	0

ALOES.—*Cape* scarce and dear. Ordinary dull drossy sold at 23s. 6d., and from 25s. to 26s. 6d. per cwt. is now wanted for fine bright hard. *Curacao*: Some exceptionally fine pale livery was offered and sold at 40s. to 41s. per cwt.; lower qualities, livery and dark mixed sold at 29s., and 100 gourds of fair quality fetched 28s. *Socotrine* was not in demand, rather higher a price, viz. 80s. per cwt., being asked for medium hard.

AMBERGRIS.—One tin of fair quality sold at 60s. per oz.

ANISEED—Of 3 parcels offered, one of 7 packages small fair seed, sold at 17s. 6d. per cwt. For Italian and Syrian 24s. and 10s. were bid respectively, but not accepted. Privately the market is dull. Russian seed is quoted at 20s. to 23s. per cwt.

ARECA-NUTS.—Good bold seed sold at 15s. to 15s. 6d. per cwt., but small and broken slightly wormy found no buyers. The exports from Pondicherry were 62 sacks in 1897 and 102 in 1896.

ARGOL.—Good firsts from the Cape sold at 45s. per cwt.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Dull of sale; 2s. 1d. would buy thick unfiltered Maranham. Maracaibo character was held for 2s. New York advices report considerable activity in view of the probable decrease in the shipments from South America owing to the war. For Maranham copaiba 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. per lb. c.i.f. is asked, and 1s. 9d. for Cartagena.

BALSAM TOLU.—Privately business has been done at 1s. 10s. per lb. for soft opaque of fair flavour. The first-hand stock in New York of over 100 cases is said to have been disposed of.

BENZOIN.—Sumatra kinds cheaper by 10s. per cwt. In auction medium to bold *Siam*, partly pale blocky almonds, sold at 14s. per cwt., subject; good flavoured drop, partly blocky, at 11s.; and very common dark blocky siftings at 44s. per cwt. Privately, sales of fine creamy loose almonds have been made at 15s. 15s. *Sumatra* varieties sold fairly well to begin with. No high-class resin was offered. Fair seconds, small to medium almonds, slightly false-packed, of good aroma, sold at 8s. 5s. to 8s. 7s. 6d. Ordinary seconds, small almonds, rather false-packed, at from 5s. 10s. to 6s.; common ditto at 7s. to 9s. per cwt.; and several good lots of the same class, offered without reserve, sold at 7s., 8s., 9s. 6d., and 97s. 6d. per cwt. One lot of hard brown, fair flavour and glossy surface, sold without reserve at 7s. to 77s. per cwt.

BUCHU.—Cheaper, fair bright round green leaves selling at 4½d. and 4½d., and yellowish and stalky ditto at 3½d. per lb.

CALUMBA.—Cheaper, dull sorts, part stemmy, medium to bold, selling at 20s. to 21s. per cwt.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Nine cwt. of camphor, in tablets, made at the Diamond Jubilee Camphor-refinery, Kobe, Japan, sold at from 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 4d. per lb., the lowest price being for 1-oz. tablets and the highest for ½-oz., each of the latter being wrapped in blue paper and labelled with the name of the factory. The wrappers being stained with oil suggests that the camphor is compressed flowers, but it is a cheap novelty.

CANNABIS INDICA.—For fine heads 6½d. is wanted, and fair green tops 5½d. per lb.

CARDAMOMS sold 3d. to 6d. per lb. cheaper, and brokers seemed anxious to sell. The prices were for *Ceylon Mysore*,

bold good bright pale, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d. per lb.; dull ditto, 3s. 2d.; medium ditto, 2s. 5d.; small yellow, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d.; medium to bold brown round, 3s. 5d. (subject); medium long pale, 2s. 11d. and 3s.; small ditto, 2s. 9d.; and splits and pickings, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 5d. *Ceylon-Malabars* were not wanted, and some good *Tellicherries* had also to retire. *Mangalore* sold at 3s. 9d. to 4s. for medium to bold good pale, and 2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d. for small to medium brownish. Seeds sold at 2s. 9d. to 3s. 1d. per lb. for good full-flavoured grey and brown, and 2s. 6d. for small shrivelled.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—No sales in auction. Privately the market is firm at 20s. to 21s. for new bark, and 25s. per cwt. for five-year-old bark. From 4½c. to 5c. per lb. is asked in New York.

CASCARILLA.—For an exceptional lot of bold quill 51s. per cwt. was obtained.

CINCHONA.—Fair Cartagena bark, part rough, sold at 4d. per lb., dull Loxa at 7d., and grey Huanoco of good quality 9½d. to 9½d., which is cheaper. Calisaya, dull thin cultivated, sold at 8d. and 9d. per lb. for bright, and 5d. to 7½d. per lb. for damages.

COLOCYNTH.—About 1d. per lb. cheaper, small to medium peeled apple, part broken, selling at 10½d. to 11d.

COWHAGE.—Dark-brown leaves sold cheaply at 1d. per lb.

CROTON-SEEDS.—Dearer, 90s. per cwt., against 82s. at last sales, being obtained for good clean seed.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Fine qualities are still scarce; 6s. 10s. to 6s. 15s. would buy fair medium lump.

ERGOT OF RYE.—For Spanish there is no price, because sound drug is not available. Russian is 10d. per lb. on the spot, and is difficult to get. In auction 7d. per lb. was refused for wormy Spanish.

GUAIACUM.—An exceptionally fine parcel of selected glassy block was offered, but nobody would go to the 2s. per lb. wanted for it.

GUM ARABIC.—Brown Australian sorts, East Indian ditto, Persian ditto, and various grades of Trieste picked were offered, but no sales were made. Privately there has been a good demand for sorts, but supplies are almost exhausted; fine grades are held for high prices, which prevent business.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—Medium white flake sold at 9s. 2s. 6d. per cwt.

HONEY.—Unchanged. Pale to medium dark Australian syrup sold at 19s.; dark, part set, Californian at 26s.; part set unfiltered Jamaica at 20s., set ditto at 15s. to 22s. 6d., according to colour; dark syrupy ditto at 23s. 6d. per cwt.

IPECACUANHA.—Again dearer. Privately 9s. 3d. has been paid for picked Rio, and on Wednesday 10 bales of ordinary wiry sold at 9s. for America, while at auction 9s. 1d. was wanted for a similar grade, and 9s. 3d. was the limit placed upon good sound wiry to fair root. In Cartagena no business was done publicly, but privately sales of fair bold well annulated have been made at 5s. to 5s. 3d. per lb.

JALAP.—Sixpence per lb. is now wanted for medium heavy Vera Cruz.

KAMALA.—Fair light powder sold at 3s. 1d. per lb.

KINO.—The limits placed upon good East Indian ruby grain were slightly lower, but no business was done.

KOLA.—Dull West Indian sold at 3½d. to 4d. per lb.

MASTIC.—Fine pale drop sold at 1s. 10d. per lb., at which business has also been done privately.

MUSK.—Is still lifeless, and the nominal values are unchanged.

MYRRH.—No fine qualities were sold. Dull sorts, of fair flavour, were disposed of without reserve at 30s. per cwt.; and low dark pickings at 4s. to 7s. 6d. per cwt.

OIL, BAY.—Fair quality sold at 6s. 10d. per lb.

OIL, CAJUPUT.—Privately, 3s. 9d. per bottle is asked on the spot, and this was the limit price in auction.

OIL, LIME.—Again sold quickly at 4s. per lb.

**OIL, ORANGE (BITTER).**—A parcel of West Indian distilled sold at 7s. 8d. per lb., with good competition.

**ORRIS.**—Good Mogador sold quickly at 21s. to 23s., while Bombay was the only other kind offered, and did not sell. Privately selected Florentine is held for 37s. to 33s. per cwt. c.i.f.

**RHUBARB.**—The sales were disappointing, and brokers were not disposed to sell at lower values. Of Canton, only small round, part trimming, pinky fracture, and good medium flat, fair fracture, sold, the former at 1s. 2d. per lb. and the latter at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d., one bold lot fetching 1s. 4d. For good bold Shensi, round and flat, three-quarters pink and one-quarter grey fracture, 2s. 7d. was refused; medium flat, fair fracture, sold at 11½d. to 1s.; and rough pickings at 11d. High-dried was not plentiful, nor was it in demand.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Good fibrous Jamaica grey sold at 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. per lb., and dull native red tar-damaged at 6d. New Lima did not sell, nor did chumpy damaged Mexican, for which 5d. per lb. is wanted, or 4½d. c.i.f. Honduras has been more in demand in New York, and 1s. 4½d. per lb. c.i.f. is now asked. It is also scarce here, but a parcel offered in sale could be bought at 1s. 7d.

**SENEGA ROOT.**—Fair chumpy was limited, at 1s. per lb. New York quotatious appear to be slightly easier at 11¾d. c.i.f. for Minnesota, and 11½d. for Manitoba root.

**SENNA.**—Still higher prices are asked by holders. Nearly all the Tinnevelly offered to-day was from second-hand. There was some good bold green leaf for which 6½d. was refused; medium ditto, part yellow, sold at 3½d.; small to medium, at 2d. to 2½d.; ditto spotty brown and damaged, at 1½d. to 1½d. Fair pods sold at 1½d. For Alexandrian, small to medium green, 6½d. per lb. was declined.

**STAVESACRE-SEED.**—Good bright can be bought at about 33s. per cwt.

**TAMARINDS.**—The new Barbados fruit, which is in pale whole pods, was again bought in at 16s. per cwt. The exports from Pondicherry were 909 barrels in 1897, and 203 in 1896.

**TONKA-BEANS.**—Foxy Paras, slightly cumarined, can be bought at 10d. per lb.

**VANILLA.**—The moderate supply met a moderate demand, the prices realised being: For good crystallised, 7 to 7½ inches, 19s. to 20s. 6d. per lb.; 6 to 6½ inches ditto, 16s. to 18s.; 5 to 5½ inches ditto, 16s. to 17s.; brown and foxey, 12s. to 15s.; and low foxey, 9s. to 11s. 6d. Reports from Réunion state that, owing to shrinkage in the new crop and the destruction of the island of Mayotte (producing 8,000 kilos. of vanilla), prices there have risen considerably. These reports have had no effect on the European markets.

**WAX (BEES').**—Australian maintains its value at 7s. 10s. per cwt. for hard yellow. Angola, Benguela, Calcutta, and Italian did not sell. Jamaica easier, good hard yellow and dark selling at 7s. 2s. 6d. to 7s. 5s. per cwt. A parcel of odourless Japanese sold, without reserve, at 34s. to 34s. 6d.; it was of fair yellow colour. Madagascar, Portuguese, and Spanish were in fair supply, but there was no demand. Of three parcels of Zanzibar, one sold at 6s. 7s. 6d. for pale yellow to dark wormy and earthy. 223 tons were exported from Ceará, Brazil, in 1897, compared with 160 tons in 1896.

#### Heavy Chemicals.

A further slight increase is to be noted in the general demand for heavy chemicals, but there has not been much fluctuation in the prices of the various products. *Caustic soda* is still very low. Present figures are: 60 per cent., 6s. 2s. 6d. to 6s. 5s.; 70 per cent., 7s. 2s. 6d.; 74 per cent., 7s. 15s., all f.o.b. Liverpool; 76-77 per cent., 8s. 5s. to 8s. 7s. 6d., f.o.b. Tyne or Liverpool. *Bleaching-powder* continues fairly steady at unaltered rates, and is in moderate demand. *Soda crystals* are in fairly good demand, and are somewhat firmer; quotations are: f.o.b. Liverpool 3s., Tyne 2s. 12s. 6d. *Bicarbonate of soda* is firmer and dearer, and is now quoted 6s. 15s. to 7s. for 10-cwt casks, f.o.b. Liverpool, with usual extra for smaller packages. *Ammonia alkali* is moving

briskly, at 4l. 2s. 6d. to 4l. 5s. per ton, free on rails makers' works, and 4l. 5s. f.o.b. Liverpool. *Saltcake* maintains its late firm tone, and quotations are a shade higher, ranging now from 21s. to 22s. per ton on rails in bulk. There is no change to report in *Chlorates*, Liverpool being 3d. and London 3½d.; and the late low figures for *Bichromates* also continue to rule. *Yellow prussiate of potash* has again taken a rather firmer tone, and best Lancashire is now quoted 6½d. to 7d. *Boracic acid* and *Borax* are quiet; crystals and powdered are respectively 23s. and 25s., and 14s. and 14s. 6d. *Pearl hardening* is moving fairly well, at 60s., free on rails. *Hydrate of alumina* in better request, at 11l. 5s. to 12l. 5s. per ton, according to quantity. *Hyposulphite of soda* steady, with slightly increased demand; 6-7-cwt. casks, 4l. 15s., and 1-cwt. kegs, 5l. 5s., f.o.r. or f.o.b. *Sulphate of ammonia* is distinctly firmer, and quotations are somewhat higher. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 137 tons. *Benzols*, too, are firmer: 90 per cent. are now quoted, prompt, 1s., and July-December delivery, 1s. 1d.; 50 per cent., 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. *Cream of tartar* is rather easier; powdered, 7s. to 7s., and crystals, 7s. *Sulphate of zinc* very steady, at 6l. 5s. to 6l. 6s. 3d.; chloride, 6s. *Carbonate of magnesia*, 40s. per cwt. *Calcined magnesia*, 1s. to 1s. 4d. per lb. *Green copperas* and *Brown acetate of lime* very firm, and advancing tendency.

#### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on May 11, reports that *Castor oil* has maintained the upward movement indicated last week, and very little good seconds Calcutta is to be had at 3½d., and 3½d. is now generally talked of; first-pressure French is now in the same position, and second-pressure is procurable at 3d. to 3½d. per lb. The movement in *Canary-seed* has hardly been sustained, though several hundred bags have exchanged hands in the neighbourhood of 29s. to 30s. *Spirit of turpentine* has receded after the spurt of last week, and has come back to 27s. *Chilian beeswax* is very firmly held indeed, and sales are being made at prices ranging from 7s. to 7s. 15s. A parcel of *St. Domingo* wax at auction was sold at 6l. 15s. Nine packages of *Gum guaiacum*, recently arrived, were offered at auction, but 1s. was the highest bid, and they were sold afterwards on private terms. *Arabic descriptions* of gum exhibit rather a lack of features of interest. Soudan sorts remain scarce and are firmly held, but the business passing is very moderate. Medium qualities are inactive, except Brazilian, for which there is a large inquiry, but at low prices. *African ginger* has met with a better demand, and sales have been made at 18s. 6d. *Honeys* of all descriptions are very well held, sales of Pile III. Chilian being made at 21s. *Sulphate of copper*, 98 per cent. to 99 per cent., is firmly held at 16s. 10s. *Fenugreek-seed* is selling steadily as it arrives, at 10s. 6d. per cwt. ex quay.

#### The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes on May 10 that the drug-market in general is quiet, with few alterations to report. *Cape aloe* is firmly held, at 55m. per 100 kilos. *Citric acid* is also firmer, at 240m. per 100 kilos. *Star-anise* is scarce and firm, 235m. per 100 kilos, being asked for spot delivery. *Campior (refined)* shows little business only; to-day's quotation is 238m. per 100 kilos. *Condurango-bark* is firm, at 48m. per 100 kilos. *Maltese cumin-seed* is steady, at 39m. to 40m. per 100 kilos. *Caraway-seed* is advancing; August-September delivery is quoted 46m. per 100 kilos. *Galangal* is steady, at 45m., *Gentian-root* quiet, at 45m. per 100 kilos. *Honey* is firm; *Domingo* and *Cuba* honey are scarce. *Opium* is firmer, at 22m. to 24m. per kilo. *Quinine* is quiet, with sellers at 32m. per kilo. *Quillaia-root* remains firm, at 40m. per 100 kilos. *Sarsaparilla* is very firm. *Ipecacuanha* scarce and dearer, at 18m. to 19m. per kilo. for Rio. *Worm-seed* is offered at 43m. per 100 kilos. *Wax*: for Japanese on the spot, 71m. is asked; to arrive, 69m. per 100 kilos.; market quiet. *Carnauba wax*, 80m. to 130m. per 100 kilos., according to quality. *Turpentine* is firm; spot is held to-day for 55m. per 100 kilos. *Castor-oil* is firm; spot delivery (first pressing), 62m. per 100 kilos. *Linsseed-oil* excited. *Cod liver-oil* shows little business; non-congealing oil, spot, is quoted at 77m. per barrel. In essential oils *Caraway-seed* is scarce and advancing; *Russian anise* is quiet, at 14m. per kilo. *Star anise oil* firm, at 14½m.



*In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.*

#### Edinburgh University.

SIR.—Your correspondent, without intending it, is a little disparaging towards Edinburgh University. 16/-, for "general expenditure," is evidently 16,000. [Yes.—ED.] As to the decrease in number of medical students during the last decade being regarded as "deplorable," that is an opinion very much open to question. Edinburgh University has still probably the best equipped medical school in the United Kingdom, but it suffers from one limitation. The population of the city not being very large, the local supply of bodies for the anatomy department is limited, and the supply of sick and injured persons to the hospitals is also limited. The latter is the more serious difficulty. In brief, the numbers of students who crowded the class-rooms some seven to ten years ago were in excess of the possibilities of successful clinical teaching. That is to say, the number of students now attending the university and extra-mural schools must be regarded as more nearly approaching the normal and proper proportion of medicals than the inflated preponderance of former years.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

Edinburgh, May 9.

D. B. DOTT.

#### The British Pharmacopœia, 1898.

SIR.—It is somewhat of a surprise to me that among your multifarious correspondents no one appears at all alarmed at the revolutionary character of the new B.P.

I, in common with several other pharmaceutical friends, would like to know whether every chemist in Great Britain will, immediately the book is declared official, be expected to consign his stock of 1885 tinctures, &c., to the sewers and start afresh, or whether a reasonable period will be allowed to elapse before he is compelled, under divers penalties in default of not doing so, to conform to the new regimen?

Were we publicans instead of mere chemists we might talk of compensation for the loss thus thrust upon us; but we are not, and it appears to me that every pharmacist, great and small, should, if he has not already done so, read Mr. F. W. Fletcher's "Comments and Criticisms" (*C. & D.* May 7, page 765) and—ponder.

Mr. Fletcher sounds an unmistakable note of alarm; 'tis for us to discuss and place ourselves in the best possible position to receive with such grace as we may this new bugbear.

Yours, &c.,

EIGHTEEN-NINETY-EIGHT-NUISANCE. (174/7.)

#### Company Pharmacy.

SIR.—I hope the suggestions set forth by "Semper Paratus Pericula" in your last week's issue will be carried out. It is quite time something was done to prevent unqualified companies from using titles which are illegal for individuals to use, and practising pharmacy on other men's qualifications. Monopoly in the sale of drugs we shall never have, but is it right for unqualified men to assume titles they have not earned, to the detriment of others who have spent time, money, and study in gaining their qualifications?

If it is to be allowed, why not have on the same lines cash doctors, cash dentists, and cash lawyers? I am of the same opinion as the editor of the *C. & D.* (in his article last week, "Individuals v. Companies") "that there is no danger of the individual chemist being snuffed out" at present, but still a great deal of injury can be and is done to the chemist by unqualified companies and stores, and also by large grocers who have numerous branches in the country, trade in drugs at nearly cost-prices, and describe themselves on their labels as "manufacturing-chemists."

Yours truly,

COUNTRY CHEMIST. (173/4.)

#### Munyon's Prices.

SIR.—I do not think the action of Messrs. Munyon in raising prices ought to be passed by the P.A.T.A. portion of the trade without a protest.

It is very arbitrary, and seems to me to be in violation of the terms offered when planting cases and seeking the co-operation of the chemist. I should like the opinion of some members of the P.A.T.A., whether a manufacturer (who subscribes to P.A.T.A. rules) can raise his wholesale prices at his own sweet will, any more than the party on the other side can lower them as he may please.

Yours respectfully,

A RETAILER. (173/12.)

#### Union Contracts in Ireland.

SIR.—I trust you do not intend to relax your vigilance in the above. I can testify to the accuracy of the figures you have given, and I know of a firm who, about a year ago, tendered to a Union oil morrhua 1s. per gal. The tender was not further considered, as the Guardians knew that the oil could not be supplied at the figure. One celebrated firm of Union contractors have not had their tender considered by certain Union for the last thirteen years, as the Guardians are well up to his method of pricing articles. Aromatic spirit of ammonia at 10d. per pint, and ext. ergot. liq. and ext. cascar. liq. at 10d. per oz., are well-known methods. Some Unions now go by wholesale list-prices in determining contracts.

Yours,

A. B. (108/56.)

#### The Assistants' Union.

SIR.—Your leader would, methinks, advise us to cry peace at any price, hold up the flag of truce, and suffer the legitimate calling which we have spent half our lives in acquiring to slip into the hands of Croesus *et hoc genus omne*. No, sir, with your permission we will not rest, we will not be stifled out of existence, and lead lives of regret and disappointment, without making some efforts at regeneration.

We advisedly, as no doubt it is clear to you, used *noms de guerre* to avoid self-advertisement, and not with the object of fighting 'neath shadows.

I should like to meet "Tocsin," to discuss whether our arguments cannot be put into palpable form—to form, if you will, a Retail Chemists' Federation, objects of which will be the betterment of retail chemists and their assistants. I enclose my card.

DRAWN SWORD. (176/57.)

#### Chill versus Chiel.

SIR.—I see by the *C. & D.*, April 2, that you have got hold of the alleged piece of poetry which I sent to the editor of the *Times of Ceylon*. I am Scotch (very much Scotch), and the editor of the local paper, being English, thought that he would correct my spelling, so I am glad that Burns is not alive at the present day to see it.

With best salaams to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,

Yours sincerely,

Hatton, Ceylon, April 18.

SCOTTIE. (172/12.)

#### MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

*We reply to our subscribers and their employés only; queries must, therefore, be authenticated by the name and address of the subscriber. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and the name of the querist should be placed on the sample. Queries are not replied to by post.*

156/50. *F. J. K.*—The powerful solvent action of glycerine will effectually prevent any label sticking on the inside of a jar containing it.

155/74. *Vertieal.*—There is no book on confectionery colours. In "Pharmaceutical Formulas" there are some hints on colouring-matters under the heading "Beverages" which would be useful to you.

156/26. *Beginner.*—(1) There is plenty of choice of harmless dark-red colouring-matter for an eye-ointment,

such as ferric oxide or Armenian bole. (2) We do not know the composition of "cockleshell ointment." (3) Children's Worm-powders.—See *C. & D.*, October 9, 1897, page 606.

14/4. *Lux*.—The Preparation for Stiffening Dress-material is a (badly-made) mucilage of tragacanth, about twice the B.P. strength.

154/17. *Chemicus*.—(1) The Anodyne-syrup is a mixture of laudanum and syrup. (2) *Nature*, a weekly periodical, would, perhaps, suit you.

157/47. *H. B. K.* sends a powder which is used to clear the flues of cooking-stoves from soot. About 2 oz. in a chip-box are burnt in the stove on a quick fire, when nearly all the soot disappears, leaving a light-brown powder behind. We find the powder to consist of salt ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz.), sulphur ( $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.). The box contains, in addition, some strips of zinc, which, we are informed, is part of the charge.

158/63. *J. W. H.*.—You must not add together the "total solids" as well as "fat" and "solids not fat" in the milk-analysis, as you thus reckon the solids twice over.

160/17. *S. C.*—Shampoo-powder.—See *C. & D.*, September 4, 1897, page 440, November 7, 1896, page 700, or November 28, 1896, page 807.

160/2. *G. P. G.*—To Darken Oak Furniture, apply the following mixture:—

Washing-soda	...	...	...	1 lb.
Lime	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Water	...	...	...	1 gallon
Boil together for ten minutes, and when cold add				
Bismark brown	...	...	...	4 oz.

158/32. *Kroy*.—The lemonade-powder is coloured with a trace of aniline yellow.

92/22. *A. P.*—(1) What we said was that the precipitate which our correspondent got was due to the cause mentioned. (2) The date given is an error. (3) It is impossible to say what the profits of a business returning 1,200*l.* should be. A business doing much in cut "patents" would not obviously show as good a profit as a dispensing one.

91/26. *O. F. D.*—Water-glass.—See *C. & D.*, April 2, 1898, page 562, and April 30, page 738.

168/14. *J. R. C. S.*—(1) Spt. Serpylli:—

Ol. serpylli (wild thyme)	...	...	gtt. 15
Spt. vini rect.	...	...	gum. 100

(2) *Mistura Oleoso-balsamica*:—

Oils of lavender, cloves, cassia, thyme, lemon, and mace, of each	5 <i>j.</i>
Balsam of Peru	...
Rectified spirit to	...

Mix, shake occasionally every day for a week, and filter through paper damped with spirit and sprinkled with fullers' earth.

This is from "Pharmaceutical Formulas"; which would be of great use to you for out-of-the-ordinary preparations.

165/31. *Chicken*.—The chickens are suffering from gapes, caused by the presence of *Strongylus filaria* in the trachea. Fumigate with carbolic acid, and insert glycerin, carbolite into the windpipe by means of a feather. "Veterinary Counter-practice" gives further details of the treatment.

87/2. *Sussex*.—Nutritive Pomade.—See *C. & D.*; January 1, 1898, page 30, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 67.

91/27. *J. G.*.—The application of boiling water (by means of small pieces of cotton-wool) is the most effective manner of stopping the bleeding after applying leeches.

168/37. *P. H. G.*—Spt. Thymol. Co.—We gave the formula for this in the 1897 DIARY, page 477. See also "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 540.

170/25. *G. T. D.*—Your sample of petroleum emulsion is a semi-liquid petroleum jelly of a high degree of purity. You could make a similar article by mixing vaseline and liquid vaseline.

156/55. *A. S. (N.S.W.)*.—(1) The samples of ink are not to hand yet. (2) To Soften Water for Domestic Use, a powder made by mixing slaked lime, 1 oz., and dried carbonate of soda, 2 oz., is about the best to use. A little of this is stirred into a vessel of water, and allowed to clear by subsidence. (3) The quality of liquid cochineal can be judged by noting the colour it gives to a certain bulk of water. There is a good formula in *C. & D.*, May 8, 1897, page 747.

172/35. *Orum*.—It is, as you say, against our rule to reply by post; it is also, we may remind you, our rule to ignore anonymous communications. The questions you ask have been answered quite lately.

167/7. *W. H. B.*—The formula on page 204 is the better.

172/50. *Phenazon*.—(1) To darken peroxide-bleached hair try a solution of permanganate of potash. (2) The Educational number of the *C. & D.* (September 4, 1897) gives a list of books suitable for Minor study.

## INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

177/16. What is "Styrene"?

97/22. Present address of Coppock & Co., makers of "Queen Sheba Liquid Gold."

71/37. Who supplies stock "Health-salt" tins in small quantities?

107/37. Makers of pulp cardboard boxes and wooden "toilet-oatmeal"?

## Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Tuesday, May 17.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Annual dinner at the Victoria Hall, Hotel Cecil, at 7 P.M.

Wednesday, May 18.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 12 o'clock. Fifty-seventh annual general meeting. The report of the Council will be received, and Council and auditors elected for the ensuing year.

Royal Microscopical Society, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 7.30. Exhibition of microscopic aquatic life.

Thursday, May 19.

Chemical Society, Burlington House, at 8 P.M. Papers to be read: "The Action of Formaldehyde on Amines of the Naphthalene Series," by Mr. G. T. Morgan; "On the Constitution of Oleic Acid and its Derivatives. Part I," by Mr. F. G. Edmed.

Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 3 P.M. "Heat" (Lecture II.), by the Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S.

Society of Chemical Industry.—Next Monday, May 16, a smoking-concert of the London Section will be held in the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street. A very good programme has been arranged, which includes an exhibition of the cinematograph by Mr. Fuerst.

The Presidents of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Society of Public Analysts, and Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Clowes, and Mrs. Dyer, will hold a reception at the galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water-colours, Piccadilly, on May 24, from 8.30 to 11.30 P.M.



